



presented by

HONDA



2024 FLOAT JUDGES

Heather de Kok AAF AIFD CFD CFEJ PFCI is a Canadian businesswoman, founder of the Annual Maple Leaf Cup Floral Design Competition and a veteran of the flower industry with more than 25 years of expertise. She owns and operates her own Grower Direct Flower shop, Heather de Kok Floral Design. In 2007, she was inducted into the American Institute of Floral Design and went on to receive her Professional Floral Communicators International accreditation. Heather isn't new to the Rose Parade, she has prior experience working on two award-winning floats in 2008. She also had the opportunity to design flowers for a state visit to the White House. Heather is an inductee of the American Academy of Floriculture and earned her Certified Floral Evaluator and Judge accreditation in 2016. She was a technical advisor for England's Interflora World Cup of Flowers in 2019 and 2023. With Heather's wide array of knowledge in the floral industry, she teaches worldwide about floral design, flower care and marketing.

Judith K. Nakamura brings a wealth of legal experience to the judging panel, with a 22-year career in the New Mexico judiciary. Her journey includes serving as Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court and a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1989. Beyond her legal accomplishments, Judith is President of the Board for Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the world's largest balloon festival. Remarkably, she's also an accomplished hot air balloon pilot with 19 years of experience, owning and piloting her own balloon named Bounce. Judith actively contributes to various boards, such as the National Courts and Sciences Institute, Think New Mexico and has earned numerous awards for her contributions, including the UNM School of Law Distinguished Achievement Award, Albuquerque Bar Association's Judge of the Year Award and the National Mothers Against Drunk Driving President's Award.

Richard Schulhof is a horticulture expert who spent 50 years passionately dedicated to the field. His life-long love of plants began in his grandfather's garden and horticulture classes at San Dieguito High School. Richard's career background has a focus on botanic gardens, with notable roles such as deputy director at Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum and executive director of Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge, then retiring as CEO of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. His contributions extend beyond garden management, encompassing teacher training programs, life science curricula development in public schools and landscape preservation initiatives in collaboration with organizations like the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts. He holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from U.C. Berkeley and master's degrees in botanic garden administration from the University of Delaware and in Forestry from Harvard University. Richard is dedicated to exploring native plant communities and emphasizing the vital role of plants in sustaining life on Earth.