The float provides a reverent feel that embraces the notion of “living”…i.e., “living life to the fullest.”  In the front of the float, there is a beautiful inspirational garden with trellis that ties in to the floral beauty of the annual Rose Parade®.  The garden represents growth, development, life, and living.  These 4 pillars represent 4 key foundational concepts of the history of our profession introduced by Adolph Meyer, “work, rest, play, and sleep” that are necessary in order to achieve an ideal “balance” within daily life.

Within this “garden of life” you will see a child on a swing; a symbol of play, developmental milestones, and sensory integration.  This may also be an adult on a swing…either way, a client of OT with a powerful story to share with the world.

In the center of the float, you will see a sort of gazebo-like structure.  This octagon will offer 8 rotating panels, 8 feet x 4 feet in dimension.  These rotating panels will offer images of contemporary occupational therapy alternating with historical images of occupational therapy.  These images offer the viewers the notion of the breadth of the work of occupational therapy, both in present day and throughout our history.

At the back of the float, serving as the foundation you will find the Hull House, a historical landmark of the OT profession.  Just imagine what Jane Addams would think of this…  The Hull House is 24 feet tall, nearly 3 stories high.

As a whole, the float offers a “community-garden” feel to it…almost like walking through a public garden where you might find a fountain, gazebo, carousel…and historical monument perhaps.

The overall dimension of the float is roughly 18-feet wide in the front by nearly 58-feet long and 24-feet high…anything this large should be fairly impressive!

There is room for 14 riders on the float. The riders will include occupational therapy practitioners paired with their clients, who will represent diversity in age, ethnicity, condition, etc.  Most importantly, the clients will have powerful stories of resilience and triumph.  There will be a wounded warrior, which connects our present-day therapy with our historical roots in rehabilitating veterans.  The riders are an essential strategy for attracting media coverage and telling our profession’s story.  This is where we will capitalize on the messaging from the media, with these powerful real-life stories of our clients.