



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 2017

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN ILLINOIS TOLLWAY 2018 MAP COVER ART CONTEST
More than 22,000 votes cast for student artwork displayed online and at Tollway oases

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway today announced that Lindley Wiesner, a sophomore at Lake Forest High School, is the grand prize winner of the 2018 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest celebrating the bicentennial of the State of Illinois.

The contest is sponsored by the Illinois Tollway, Blick Art Materials and MB Real Estate Services Inc. (MBRE).

Students selected as runners-up in the contest include:

- First runner-up – Courtney Kurtz, Lincoln-Way West High School in New Lenox
- Second runner-up – Luis Chavez, Bolingbrook High School in Bolingbrook
- Third runner-up – Ronald Aldrin Gonzales, Bolingbrook High School in Bolingbrook

“Lindley Wiesner’s winning artwork incorporates many outstanding features that make Illinois great, from a world-class transportation network to cultural landmarks, sports and architecture,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “We thank the students and their teachers for participating and members of the public who voted to choose our four finalists.”

More than 22,000 votes by members of the general public were cast online to identify four finalists, with the overall winner and runners-up selected by a panel of judges including members of the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors and representatives from MBRE.

“I am so appreciative of this opportunity to learn more about my home state and its history,” said Lindley Wiesner. “I would also like to thank my amazing art teacher Carolyn Bielski, my family and my school community for their support.”

In celebration of the State of Illinois’ bicentennial in 2018, the Illinois Tollway invited students to illustrate the different things that make Illinois a great state and submit artwork that focuses on what makes them #IllinoisProud.

The 2018 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest is one way the Illinois Tollway is joining the statewide celebration. Illinois became the nation’s 21st state on December 3, 1818. A year-long celebration of the state and its accomplishments will begin on December 3, 2017, leading up to the 200th birthday in December 2018. More information about the bicentennial can be found at illinois200.com.

In all, more than 120 students from 25 schools throughout the region, from Chicago to Rockford, participated in the art contest and 10 semi-finalists were selected for public voting. The artwork of the 10 semi-finalists, including the winning entries, is currently on display on the Illinois Tollway’s website illinoistollway.com and at each of six Illinois Tollway oases.

“We received so many outstanding submissions from incredibly talented young artists this year. MBRE is thrilled with the level of participation and we’re proud to co-sponsor such a wonderful

--more--

event celebrating Illinois' bicentennial, said Alma Becerra, MBRE general manager of the Tollway Oases. "Congratulations to Lindley and the runners-up on their fantastic achievements."

Artwork created by the grand prize winner will be featured on the cover of the Tollway's 2018 map, which is distributed at no cost to more than 75,000 customers. The grand prize winner and three runners-up will be featured in the Tollway's annual report. Awards include:

- Grand prize winner: \$400 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$200 in gift certificates from MBRE to use at oases retail shops and restaurants
- Runners-up: \$200 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$100 in gift certificates from MBRE
- A certificate of appreciation for all students who participate in the contest

"Blick is pleased to continue its support of the Illinois Tollway's annual art contest," said Blick Art Materials Chief Executive Bob Buchsbaum. "There are too few opportunities for visual artists to gain the recognition they deserve, and this contest is a great way to encourage and support the efforts of young artists. We congratulate Lindley Wiesner and wish her great success as she continues to develop her artistic skills."

About Blick Art Materials

Founded in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1911, Blick Art Materials is one of the largest and oldest providers of art supplies in the United States, with 66 retail stores nationwide. Its products cater to the full spectrum of artists – from the youngest child ready to scribble with his or her first crayon to well-known, gallery-represented professionals. The company's extensive selection, competitive prices and superior customer service make Blick the best choice for art educators, students, artists, architects, designers, hobbyists or anyone requiring quality art materials for work or pleasure. A long-time advocate of art education in the U.S., Blick also provides support of scholastic, collegiate and professional art shows, both financially and through a variety of materials that emphasize the benefits of art education. Blick also supports the communities in which it does business by sponsoring in-store events, local schools, art leagues and community groups across the country. Visit dickblick.com for more information.

About MB Real Estate Services Inc.

Founded in 1982, MB Real Estate is a full-service real estate organization that provides multifaceted expertise in Asset/Facilities Management; Leasing Services; Project/Construction Management; Tenant Representation and Investment Services. Additionally, MBRE Healthcare provides comprehensive real estate solutions for hospitals, health systems and physicians throughout the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, with regional offices in New York, Atlanta, Orlando, Dallas and Denver, MB Real Estate provides these services to corporations, institutions, professional organizations, private investors and non-profit agencies. For more information, please visit mbres.com.

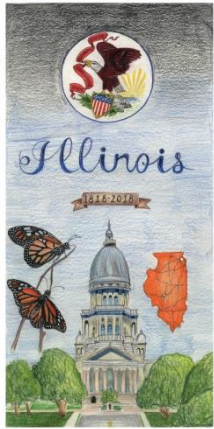
About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

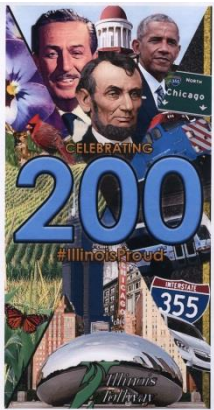
2018 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest winners



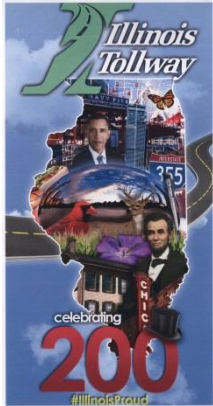
Grand Prize Winner – Lindley Wiesner, Lake Forest High School



First runner-up – Courtney Kurtz, Lincoln-Way West High School



Second runner-up – Luis Chavez, Bolingbrook High School



Third runner-up – Ronald Aldrin Gonzales, Bolingbrook High School

###