



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY OPENS ANNUAL MAP COVER ART CONTEST FOR STUDENTS
Contest welcomes high school student artwork with theme highlighting diversity and inclusion

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway, in partnership with Blick Art Materials and MB Real Estate (MBRE), is inviting high school art students to participate in the 2019 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest for a shot to land on the cover art of the official 2019 Illinois Tollway Map.

Recognizing the Illinois Tollway's commitment to diversity, the theme for the 2019 contest calls on student artists to submit artwork that illustrates the importance of diversity and inclusion. Areas of focus for the 2019 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest may include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Diversity as it pertains to employees and the businesses and individuals that work for the Tollway
- Diversity as it pertains to the communities and customers the Tollway system serves
- Diversification of skilled and construction trades via workforce development and training

The Illinois Tollway's Board of Directors has invested heavily on diversity programs, issues and policies aimed at diversifying the Illinois Tollway's engineering, design, construction and support services. The Tollway's ultimate goal is to create access to sustainable jobs and foster increased opportunities for firms of all sizes and types.

"Diversity and inclusion can help increase access to more qualified worker and businesses, which in turn fosters creativity and innovation and a competitive economy," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Elizabeth Gorman. "The Tollway remains focused on promoting, assisting and ensuring diverse participation in our *Move Illinois* Program and all aspects of our operations, including contracting, consulting and the supply of goods and services."

More than 300 high schools in the 12 counties served by the Illinois Tollway have been sent information about this year's contest. Art contest entries will be accepted beginning September 14, 2018, and must be postmarked no later than October 12, 2018.

Artwork created by the grand prize winner will be featured on the cover of the Tollway's 2019 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
- Acknowledgment of winners at the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors meeting on November 29, 2018

2019 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest

An Illinois Tollway committee will initially judge all contest entries to determine the top 10. Those top 10 entries will be featured on the Illinois Tollway's website and displayed in galleries at each of the five Tollway oases pavilions during the last week of October. The public will be invited to view the artwork and cast their votes online to choose the top four entries. The grand prize winner and three runners-up will be selected by a panel of judges, including members of the Tollway Board of Directors and representatives from MBRE.

The 2019 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest rules and all required entry forms are posted on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

The Illinois Tollway launched the Map Cover Art Contest in 2011 to highlight the work of talented art students from the communities served by the Illinois Tollway. Last year, nearly 90 entries from student artists were submitted and nearly 40,000 votes were cast by the general public to determine the four contest finalists. The 2018 Tollway map features cover artwork from last year's contest winner, Lindley Wiesner a junior at Lake Forest High School.

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.

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