



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN ILLINOIS TOLLWAY 2019 MAP COVER ART CONTEST
More than 30,000 votes cast for student artwork displayed online and at Tollway oases

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway today announced that Courtney Kurtz, a junior at Lincoln-Way West High School in New Lenox, is the grand prize winner of the 2019 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest celebrating the importance of diversity and inclusion.

The annual 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 – Caden Elliott, Bolingbrook High School
- Second runner-up – Kathleen Lucchesi, Bolingbrook High School
- Third runner-up – Angela Farkic, Lincoln-Way East High School in Frankfort

“We thank the talented students and their teachers for participating in our annual competition, as well as members of our community who voted to help select the finalists,” said Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. “Courtney’s winning artwork will serve as a public reminder that the Tollway embraces diversity and inclusion in everything we do.”

More than 30,000 votes by members of the general public were cast online to identify the four finalists, and the overall winner and runners-up were determined by a panel of judges including the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors and representatives from MBRE.

“Winning the 2019 Tollway Art Contest is an honor and a great addition to my resume as I focus on graphic design in my future,” said Courtney Kurtz. “Being part of the Illinois Tollway’s art contest has been a very fulfilling experience and one that I will always remember.”

The 2019 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest theme encouraged students to recognize the Illinois Tollway’s commitment to diversity. The Illinois Tollway is a driving force for increasing economic opportunities in the diverse communities the agency serves in 12 counties throughout Northern Illinois. The Tollway has continued to strengthen its investments in diversity and has made it a priority to create greater opportunities for small, diverse and veteran-owned firms, as well as a diverse workforce.

Students from schools throughout the Tollway system were invited to participate in the art contest, with 36 entries submitted and 10 semi-finalists 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 five Illinois Tollway oases.

“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 Courtney Kurtz and wish her great success as she continues to develop her artistic skills.”

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

"We received so many outstanding submissions from incredibly talented young artists for the Illinois Tollway's 2019 Map Cover Art Contest. MBRE is thrilled with the level of participation and we're proud to co-sponsor such an important theme celebrating diversity," said MBRE Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Asset Management Suzanne Hendrick. "Congratulations to the winner and the runners-up on their fantastic achievements."

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.

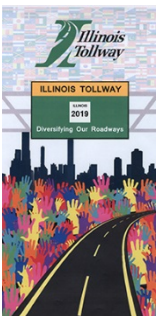
2019 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest winners



Grand Prize Winner – Courtney Kurtz, Lincoln-Way West High School



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