



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY ANNOUNCES 10TH ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST

*Competition for 2021 map cover invites high school students
to recognize everyday heroes in the wake of COVID-19*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway, in partnership with Blick Art Materials and MB Real Estate (MBRE), is inviting high school art students to submit original artwork for the cover of the 2021 Illinois Tollway Map, this year with the theme of “Everyday Heroes,” marking the 10th year of the annual contest.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Tollway has continued to serve millions of customers daily traveling the 294-mile Illinois Tollway system across 12 counties in Northern Illinois, while working closely with construction, design and engineering firms to continue our investments in our regional economy.

“Our team has worked overtime during the pandemic to not only continue providing a safe, on-road experience, but also to deliver meaningful reform and relief to our customers,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “The challenges of COVID-19 have led many in our communities to step up and work harder than ever before – and this year we’d like to also honor those everyday heroes.”

This year, artists are invited to highlight Everyday Heroes – everyday people doing extraordinary things – to be featured on the cover of the Tollway’s 2021 map. Due to the pandemic, the entire contest will be managed virtually via the Illinois Tollway’s Official Facebook page. Art contest entries will be accepted on Facebook through October 28.

Beginning November 2, the public will be invited to view the artwork and cast their votes via Facebook to choose the top three entries within a gallery on the site. The grand prize winner and two runners-up will be selected strictly by the number of “Likes” within that gallery.

The annual Tollway Map Cover Art Contest offers young artists the chance to put their talents on display each year by developing artwork for the cover of the annual Tollway map. In addition, the grand prize winner and two runners-up will be featured in the Tollway’s annual report.

Awards for the grand-prize winner include a \$400 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$200 in gift certificates from MBRE to use at oases retail shops and restaurants. Runners-up will each receive a \$200 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$100 in gift certificates from MBRE.

The 2021 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest rules and all required entry forms are posted on the Tollway’s website at www.illinoistollway.com.

More than 300 high schools in the 12 counties served by the Illinois Tollway have been sent information about this year’s contest.

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 more than 70 student artists from more than 20 high schools throughout Northern Illinois submitted artwork in the contest, and more than 17,000 votes by members of the general public were cast to help select the winners.

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 roadways 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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