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Winners Announced in the 2026 Art Pathways Contest *Creative entries showcase exceptional talent across library branches*

The McAllen Public Library (MPL) proudly announces the winners of the 2026 Art Pathways Contest, a creative initiative that encourages students of all ages to express their imagination through art.

Open to young artists with a McAllen library card, the contest invited participants to submit original artwork reflecting creativity, innovation, and the unique spirit of the community. Winning pieces, featuring Marty the Library Cat, are displayed at respective library locations.

The Art Pathways Contest combines reading and visual arts to foster creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression while supporting the library's commitment to lifelong learning.

"Today we celebrate more than just artistic talent; we celebrate imagination, creativity, and the limitless potential of our young people," said Mayor Javier Villalobos. "Art allows students to express their unique perspectives and dreams, and these winning entries remind us that the future of McAllen is bright, innovative, and full of promise."

"Projects like the Art Pathways Contest demonstrate how public spaces can become platforms for creativity and community engagement," said City Manager Isaac Tawil. "We are proud to provide opportunities that inspire young minds, strengthen community pride, and showcase the extraordinary talent that exists throughout McAllen and the region."

Entries represented a wide range of ages and artistic styles and were judged on originality, artistic merit, creativity, and the ability to communicate a meaningful message through visual art.

"Libraries are places where imagination comes to life, whether through books, technology, or artistic expression," said Kate Horan, Director of the McAllen Public Library. "These young artists have transformed their ideas into beautiful works of art, and we are honored to showcase their creativity while encouraging future generations to continue exploring the arts."

MPL congratulates participants and proudly recognizes winners, whose creativity and artistic vision reflect remarkable talent and imagination.

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Main Library:

Ages 5–8: 1st, Santiago Moya; 2nd, Marialana Vichique; 3rd, Anakin Herrera.

Ages 9–13: 1st, Elias Vazquez; 2nd, Gemma Rodriguez; 3rd, Ava Trevino.

Ages 14–18: 1st, Alyssandra Carr; 2nd, Camila Bernal; 3rd, Valeria Cervantes.

Palm View Branch:

Ages 5–8: 1st, Sylvia Portillo; 2nd, Rael Orion Solis; 3rd, Joaquin Salinas.

Ages 9–13: 1st, Santiago Galvan; 2nd, Elena Jaber; 3rd, Marjorie Esparza.

Ages 14–18: 1st, Louisa Tijerina; 2nd, Lucia Fuschetto; 3rd, Yezhiel Hernandez.

Lark Branch:

Ages 5–8: 1st, Julian Gutierrez; 2nd, Emma Ramirez; 3rd, Tahlia Hunt.

Ages 9–13: 1st, Micaela Lavryk; 2nd, Selena Lazo; 3rd, Ramiro Garcia.

Ages 14–18: 1st, Nina Bonifacio; 2nd, Emma Puente; 3rd, Olivia Salas.

For more information about upcoming programs, contact the McAllen Public Library at (956) 681-3000.

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