



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 21, 2018

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**Keep Texas Beautiful and TxDOT Announce  
Winners of Don't mess with Texas® K-12 Art Contest**  
*Students' winning artwork to be featured in 2019 litter prevention calendar*

**[AUSTIN, TEXAS]**- Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation are proud to announce the winners of this year's Don't mess with Texas® K-12 Art Contest. Entries came from 308 schools throughout Texas and the winning designs will be featured in the 2019 Don't mess with Texas® Calendar.

The contest is a joint effort by Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation to encourage young Texans to keep Texas roadways and the environment clean and free of litter. The contest was open to students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and sponsored by H-E-B/Central Market, with student prizes provided by Samsung.

"We were amazed by the incredible talents of Texas schoolchildren from around the state," said Suzanne Kho, executive director of Keep Texas Beautiful. "It was challenging to choose just 14 winners from the thousands of entries, but we are excited to share the winning designs that remind all Texans of the importance of keeping our great state clean and litter-free."

The 13 winning designs plus an additional back-cover winner will be featured in the 2019 calendar and will be showcased on the Don't mess with Texas® and Keep Texas Beautiful websites as well as at the 2018 Keep Texas Beautiful annual conference in June.

More than 3,793 students submitted their artwork from 148 communities. Students to have their artwork featured in the calendar include:

- Seoyoul Kim, Kindergarten (Fern Buff Elementary, Round Rock)
- Caitlyn Wijatno, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (St. Cecilia Catholic School, Houston)
- Vaishni Chintham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (Borchardt Elementary, Plano)
- Eileen Chi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (Pattison Elementary, Katy)
- Venkat Doddi, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (McCoy Elementary, Carrollton)
- Vera Hsiang, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Windsor Park Elementary, Corpus Christi)
- Hyeyeon Grace Lee, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Dallas Arts Studio, Irving)
- Sarah Thornhill, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Hudson Middle School, Lufkin)
- Kristine Kim, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Cedar Park Middle School, Cedar Park)
- Ben Reynolds, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade (Highland Park High School, Dallas)
- Aliza li, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (Stephen F. Austin High School, Sugar Land)
- Edgar Leal, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade (Edinburg North High School, Edinburg)
- Jessica Boetcher, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Sharylane Advanced Academic Academy, Mission)
- Abby Millsap, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Sweeny High School, Sweeny)

Contest rules required students to submit artwork that promoted the Don't mess with Texas® or Keep Texas Beautiful slogans. Artwork was judged on creativity and uniqueness, inclusion of a litter prevention message, overall visual appeal, composition and age appropriateness.



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Twelve winning designs will be assigned to a month and placed in the 2019 Don't mess with Texas® Calendar. The submission of Hyeyeon Grace Lee was selected for the front cover of the calendar and Abby Millsap's artwork was selected for the back cover. Each winner will receive a Samsung Galaxy Tab S3 9.7 inch tablet donated by Samsung. The teacher who represented each of the winning students will receive a \$100 H-E-B/Central Market gift card.

More information, including how to request your free 2018 or upcoming 2019 calendar is available at <https://ktb.org/artcontest>.

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#### **About Keep Texas Beautiful**

Keep Texas Beautiful is a network of dedicated Texans working together to make our state the best place to live, work and play. We equip local partners and affiliates with the tools they need to build vibrant, engaged communities. Founded in 1967, Keep Texas Beautiful has over 50 years of experience deploying resources for local clean-up, recycling and youth engagement efforts. Everything we do is focused on mobilizing volunteers to take action across the state. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we lead nearly 400 affiliates and reach 19 million Texans annually. We are proudly based in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @keptxbeautiful.

#### **Texas Department of Transportation**

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of roads and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 12,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Don't mess with Texas® is a registered trademark owned by the Texas Department of Transportation. For more information visit [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org).