Art Takes a Bus Ride

Art Competition for
San Mateo County Students
Grades 1 through 12

2026/2027 theme:

Everyday Heroes. Extraordinary Community.

Who makes your community a better place every day? Think about the people who help, teach, create, protect, heal, build, grow, or inspire others. They might be a teacher, crossing guard, bus operator, caregiver, artist, nurse, mechanic, firefighter, librarian, grocery worker, coach, farmer, scientist, or someone in your own family.

*Create an artwork that **celebrates one or more of your everyday heroes and shows how SamTrans helps connect people, places, and communities.** Show how transportation helps everyday heroes get where they're needed and keeps our community connected.*

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES: Student work will be judged against others in the same grade. Artwork must be original and created by **students only**.

- ☐ Students can submit one artwork. Schools can submit up to 50 artworks total.
- ☐ The student's name, grade, school, and teacher must be written on the back of the artwork.
- ☐ 'SamTrans' must be visible in some way. (on or outside the bus, logo, bus stop, riders, bus operator, etc).
- ☐ If buildings or landmarks are used, they must be located in San Mateo County.
- ☐ Artwork should be created on **9-inch-high x 12-inch-wide** white paper in a horizontal orientation to fit on the scanner used to make the wrap.
- ☐ *No exceptions – submissions not meeting these requirements will be disqualified.*

To view the artwork of previous winners, visit: SamTrans 25/26 Art Takes a Bus Ride

MEDIA: Media can include paint, crayon, felt pen, pastel, collage, and mixed media.

- ☐ The use of bold, rich color is required! Avoid using colored pencils and avoid leaving lots of white space on the canvas.
- ☐ Original artwork in digital media (Illustrator, Photoshop, etc) is accepted. Colors shown in digital artwork are for reference only and may not match the final printed product due to variations in the print production process. *NO GENERATIVE AI ARTWORK ACCEPTED.*

RELEASE FORM: All artwork must be accompanied by the Release Form on the next page. A guardian must sign the form for each participating student. Please email **Allison Gamlen** at agamlen@smcoe.org with questions.

SUBMISSIONS: All entries (including digital) must be delivered FLAT (not rolled or folded) to [Allison Gamlen, San Mateo County Office of Education, 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City], **up until December 4, 2026 at 5 p.m.**

JUDGING: All entries are judged on creativity, artistic merit, and theme interpretation. Decisions are final. Winners will be notified by e-mail.

RECOGNITION: A total of twelve winners will be selected. Winners will be recognized at the Art Takes A Bus Ride event in **May 2027.** All artwork will be on display at SMCOE. *Artwork will not be returned.*

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
SAN MATEO COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
samTrans
SAN MATEO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Release Form

Artwork must be submitted with a completed release form to be considered.

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name(s)	Grade
_____	_____	
School	District	
_____	_____	
Teacher	Teacher Email Address	

I, _____, hereby give and grant to the San Mateo County Transit District free and unlimited right to use, distribute, publish and republish, for any and all news, trade, publicity, commercial or other advertising purposes, artwork submitted by my child named above for the ***2026/2027 Art Takes a Bus Ride*** competition. I understand that artwork will not be returned.

_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

_____

E-mail Address

_____

Phone Number