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Anti-graffiti artwork of local fifth graders unveiled on RTC transit vehicle

LAS VEGAS – The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) honored two local fifth-grade students as the grand prize winners of the Anti-Graffiti Art Contest at a special D.A.R.E. event hosted by the RTC last night.

Carlos Gonzalez of Ruby Thomas Elementary School and Ashtyn Fink of the Meadows School were announced as the grand prize winners when their winning artwork was unveiled on a 40-foot RTC vehicle before an audience of friends and family.

All of the artwork was created by local fifth-grade students. More than 20 local elementary schools participated in this year's contest submitting over 475 entries. The entries were narrowed down to 10, and the winners were selected by an online community poll.

The contest seeks to teach students that the difference between art and graffiti is permission. The theme for the students' artwork was "you spray, you pay." The goal is to pledge against graffiti and educate the public that graffiti is a crime.

The RTC again partnered with the Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Crime Stoppers of Nevada, Outdoor Promotions and Vector Media Las Vegas to sponsor the art contest and the awards event.

The winning artwork will travel the valley's streets on the RTC vehicle for one year to promote the anti-graffiti message. The artwork of the other finalists will be displayed on transit shelters and inside various RTC transit vehicles, courtesy of Vector Media.

Other finalists will have their artwork featured at RTC transit shelters and include: Andreana Bowman, Jolynne Quidlat and Shadrach Reyes-Montes, all from Bailey Elementary School; Beau Taylor of Charlotte Hill Elementary School; Estrellita Mendez-Soto and Elisa Martinez both from Walter V. Long Elementary School; Vladan Grujic of Tony Alamo Elementary School; and Elizabeth Rodriguez of Our Lady of Las Vegas.

The Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition was formed in 1997 to reduce graffiti vandalism. This public-private partnership consists of staff from Clark County, the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City, Metropolitan Police Department, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Clark County School District and interested citizens. The coalition meets regularly to discuss methods of reducing graffiti through education, enforcement and eradication.

The RTC is the transit authority, transportation planning agency and regional traffic management agency for Southern Nevada. The RTC's vision is to provide a safe, convenient and effective regional transportation system that enhances mobility and air quality for citizens and visitors. The RTC encourages residents and visitors to use alternate commute modes to help reduce traffic congestion, clean the air and improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada. For more information, visit rtcsonv.com.

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