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General Media Release

Tucson Hidden Gem Alert:

YOUNG ARTISTS TURN THEIR CREATIVITY INTO TUCSON BIRTHDAY ART

Postal History Foundation names youth winners of 2026 Tucson Birthday Art Contest; grand-prize design unveiled on commemorative postcard.

(TUCSON, Arizona, Aug. 20, 2026) — The Postal History Foundation (PHF) announces the winners of its 2026 Tucson Birthday Stamp Art Contest, celebrating young artists ages 5 to 17 who submitted original designs inspired by the city they call home. Winners were revealed today at a reception at the Slusser Library on the PHF campus, 920 North First Avenue, where the grand-prize design was unveiled on a commemorative postcard.

Winners were selected through community volunteer voting in three age groups: 5–8, 9–12, and 13–17. At the reception, the grand-prize-winning design was unveiled as a commemorative postcard, while the other winning designs were reproduced as decorative illustrations on commemorative envelopes, known as cachets. The winning artwork will remain on public display at PHF for one year before being returned to the students.

2026 Winners (first, second, and third place):

- **Ages 5–8:** Rosali Cuestas, Miraj Rafiyath, Magnolia Bowman
- **Ages 9–12:** Aarohi Pai, Sammy Cuestas, Satvika Vasireddy
- **Ages 13–17:** Jenisha Timsina, Isabelle Summers, Ella Poggi

Grand Prize: Jenisha Timsina’s design, a colorful rendering of a barrio doorway framed by desert plantings, took top honors and is featured on this year’s commemorative postcard.

“Our contest has long celebrated creativity while highlighting Tucson’s rich story through art and postal history,” said Arielle Garcia, PHF Director of Library, Museum, and Education Services. “We are proud to continue this tradition and to provide students with a unique opportunity to have their work shared with the community in a meaningful and lasting way.”

About the Postal History Foundation

Founded in 1960, the Postal History Foundation is home to the Slusser Library, one of the nation’s largest philatelic research libraries and open to the public for on-site research. The Foundation also features a mini museum with a reconstructed turn-of-the-century Naco, Arizona, post office, housing vintage stamp vending machines and other postal artifacts, as well as a working Contract Postal Unit.

Through the Foundation’s Stamp Discovery Program, postage stamps are used as hands-on learning tools to explore history, geography, art, civics and other subjects, with resources and programming available to students, teachers, families and learners of all ages.