

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

CATS Transit Pass Design Contest 2026

Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW. By entering the contest, you (“Participant”) agree to these Official Rules, which form a contract. Without limitation, this contract includes indemnity obligations on the part of the Participant and a limitation of Participant’s rights and remedies. Limit one entry per person, per email address, and per household, regardless of method of entry. **CATS Transit Pass Design Contest** (“Contest”) begins at 6:00:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time on April 13, 2026, and ends at 5:00:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on May 15, 2026. Administrator’s computer is the official time-keeping device for the contest.

Eligibility:

The Contest is open only to legal residents living in North Carolina or South Carolina who are at least 18 years of age. Employees of Charlotte Area Transit System (the “Sponsor”), nor any respective affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising & promotional, fulfillment and marketing agencies, their immediate families (and those living in their same households) are not eligible to participate in the Contest. Artists who have previously won prizes in the contest must wait 2 years before they can enter again. By entering the Contest, participants agree to these Official Rules and agree to release, discharge and hold harmless, the Charlotte Area Transit System from and against any claim or cause of action, including but not limited to, any damages, personal injury, or death, which may arise out of participation in the Contest or out of the acceptance, use, misuse or possession of any prize. Void where prohibited by law, rule or regulation. All Federal, State and local laws and regulations apply.

Technical Requirements:

Files must meet the dimensions and file size to fit the transit pass layout. The Sponsor will not accept entries that do not adhere to the transit pass template.

Scanned/Photographed Artwork

The art must fill the entire template provided in the Appendix. Art should be scanned to at least 600 dpi in JPEG or TIFF format.

Photography

Photographs must be in digital format and taken at the highest resolution possible with a resolution of at least 300 dpi in JPEG or TIFF format. Photographs must be cropped to fit the entire template provided in the Appendix. Photos can be submitted as color or black and white. Entries that include riders or customers must submit a model release form. Entries without this form will be deemed ineligible.

Digital Art

All files must be in vector format as an AI or EPS file or rasterized format as a layered PSD file. All image files must be embedded. The art must fill the entire template and include the space for the type of pass, month and year provided in the Appendix.

How to Enter:

The Contest is comprised of three individual contest winners. Participants will be asked to create an original work of art using the CATS Pass template that reflects the theme: “Where do you move forward?” Selected art will be displayed on a CATS Local Monthly Pass, CATS Express Monthly Pass and CATS Express Plus Monthly Pass for the 2027 calendar year. The submitted art must be within the box of the template and must use bold mediums like pens, markers, paint or collage, while not using crayons or colored pencils.

Entries will be accepted by submittal via this link: <https://wkf.ms/4mmRXfi> or mailed to Charlotte Area Transit System, Attn: Logan Lover, 600 East 4th Street, 14th Floor, Charlotte, NC, 28202. Limit one entry per person, per email address, and per household, regardless of method of entry. All received entries must also include the entrant’s name, address, and contact telephone number.

CATS is not responsible for lost, late, or misdirected entries; printing errors; server unavailability; computer malfunctions or other computer problems; any other electronic malfunction; or anything else that prevents an entry from reaching CATS by the deadline.

Judging and Winners:

CATS will create a selection committee, by selecting a panel of three to five judges, who provide expertise in the **CATS Transit Pass Design Contest** field, understand the criteria and guidelines of the contest and can provide accurate knowledge of the **CATS Transit Pass Design Contest** theme. By May 22, 2026, the selection committee will select the winners. All entries will be judged based on aesthetic quality, creativity and artistic excellence, and adherence to the Contest theme and guidelines.

CATS will attempt to notify the winner via telephone or email the week of May 18, 2026. If the potential winner cannot be contacted within three (3) days after the date of the first attempt of contact, CATS may select an alternate potential winner in his/her/their place.

The winners will be notified by email or phone. The winner will be required to complete, sign and submit a Declaration of Compliance (confirming that the winner fully complied with these Rules and with any other requirement or rules issued by the Sponsor) within three (3) days of the date of notice or attempted notice is sent, in order to claim his/her/their prize.

A list of the winners will be available after June 1, 2026. You can obtain the name of the prize winners by mailing a self-addressed envelope to: Charlotte Area Transit System Transit Pass Design Contest Winner’s List, 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Prizes:

First Place Prize: Personal Design Displayed on a CATS Local Monthly Pass for one year and \$500.00

Second Place Prize: Personal Design Displayed on a CATS Express Monthly Pass for one year and \$300.00

Third Place Prize: Personal Design Displayed on a CATS Express Plus Monthly Pass for one year and \$100.00

Prizes are non-transferable and no substitution will be made except as determined at the Sponsor’s sole discretion. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize for one of equal or greater value if the designated prize should become unavailable for any reason.

Disqualification:

Contest Sponsor nor any of their participating partners, and each of such company's respective officers, directors, employees and agents (collectively, the "Released Parties") are not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by Participants, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest. The Released Parties are not responsible for lost, interrupted or unavailable network server or other connections, miscommunications, failed telephone or computer, telephone transmissions, technical failure, jumbled, scrambled or misdirected transmissions, hardware or software malfunctions, or other error of any kind whether human, mechanical or electronic. Persons found tampering with or abusing any aspect of this Contest, as solely determined by the judges, will be disqualified. Use of any automated system to participate is prohibited and will result in disqualification.

Any attempt by any Participant to obtain more than the stated allowable number of entries by using multiple/different profiles or identities will void that Participant's entries and that Participant may be disqualified. If disqualified for any of the above abuses, the Sponsor reserves the right to terminate entrant's eligibility to participate in the Contest. In the event any portion of this Sweepstakes is compromised by virus, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes beyond the control of the Sponsor, which in the sole opinion of the Sponsor, corrupts, or impairs the administration, security, fairness or proper play of the Contest, Sponsor reserves the right at their sole discretion to suspend or terminate the Contest.

By submitting a design, each entrant represents and warrants to the Sponsor that: (i) they alone created the design and (ii) the design does not violate anyone's copyright, other intellectual property right, other property right, or contract right. No design will be accepted if the entrant submitting that design does not have the complete, unrestricted right to submit that design for the Contest and to allow that design to be used by the Sponsor for all possible purposes contemplated by these Rules. Submitting a design with AI generated imagery will result in disqualification.

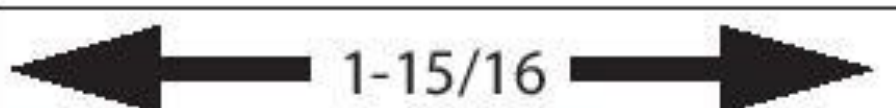
Other Conditions:

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Contest is impaired in any way for any reason, including but not limited to fraud, virus, bug, worm, authorized human intervention or other technical program, or in the event the Contest is unable to run as planned for any other reason, as determined by CATS in its sole discretion, CATS may either (a) suspend the Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Contest in a manner that best conforms to the spirit of these Rules and Guidelines or (b) terminate the Contest. The Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or operation of the Contest or acting in violation of these Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be in violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, the Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages (including attorney's fees) and other remedies from any such person to the full extent permitted by law. Failure by the Sponsor to enforce any provision of these Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

Tax Information:

All taxes and fees on prizes won are the sole responsibility of the winner.

Local Monthly JANUARY XXXX



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Art work size



INSERT HERE

