

Bookmark Making Contest

Read, Connect, Celebrate: The House on Mango Street Project

Overview

The House on Mango Street Project bridges the arts with reading to cultivate community connections. This yearlong project (Sept 2025–June 2026) features monthly events ranging from theatre and art exhibitions to small writing workshops.

One component of this project is a **city-wide bookmark making contest**. Bookmark designs should answer the question: **“What does it mean to you to be an American?”** **On your bookmark, share your thoughts, feelings, or experiences about America. You may draw, write, decorate, or all of the above.** ***Everyone’s experience is different, and there are no right or wrong answers.*** Our community is full of stories and experiences that we want to share to both celebrate what makes us unique and uncover ways that we are all interconnected. The House on Mango is celebrated for elevating unique perspectives, and this contest aims to do the same. Here is your chance to creatively express your own experience of living in America as we approach the USA’s 250th Anniversary.

Winners from three age groups (0–12, 13–19, and 20+) will be selected, professionally printed, and distributed at all libraries to give away in recognition of all the people that make up our vibrant city and for America’s 250th anniversary.

All submissions will be displayed in a large scale collage at The Foundry (located at 215 N. 14th St.) from Mid-April-June.

The top three finalists from each age group will be specially showcased at the The House on Mango Project’s First Friday Art celebration at The Foundry on May 1, 2026, where attendees will vote on one winner from each age group.

This project is brought to you by Linked2Literacy in collaboration with National Endowment for the Arts, The Lied Center of Performing Arts, Lincoln City Libraries, Sheldon Museum of the Arts, and cultural centers of Lincoln.

Eligibility

- Open to participants of all ages
- One entry per participant.

Entry Requirements

- **Theme:** What does it mean to *YOU* to be an American?
 - On your bookmark, share your thoughts, feelings, or experiences about America. You may draw, write, or decorate. *Everyone's experience is different, and there are no right or wrong answers*

Bookmark Design Guidelines

- **Size:** 2 inches wide × 8 inches tall, must not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness.
- **One-sided only:** Please design on one side of the bookmark.
- **Materials:** Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens and thin decorative items may be used. **Please do not use glitter or any materials that will easily fall off.**
- **Original work:** All designs must be created by the participant.
- **Words & pictures:** You may use drawings, words, decorations or all of the above.
- **Content:** Designs should be appropriate for all ages and respectful of others.
- **Name & age group:** Write your name, age group, email and phone number on the back only. (0-12, 13-19, 20+)

Submission Instructions

- Submit your bookmark to any Lincoln City Library location by April 1st.
- Completed contact information must accompany the submission, found on back of bookmark (Name, Age Group: 0-12, 13-19, 20+, Contact Information: email and phone number)
- Late entries cannot be accepted.

Judging Criteria

Bookmarks will be judged on:

- **Connection to the theme – How the bookmark relates to “What does it mean to you to be an American?”**
- **Creativity – Original ideas and design.**
- **Effort – Care and thought put into the bookmark (based on age).**
- **Clarity – How clearly the idea is shared using words, pictures, or both.**

All viewpoints are welcome. Entries are judged on creativity and expression, not on opinions.

Judging will be conducted by local artists, educators, and city leaders. Judges will narrow entries down to three finalists from each age group. Then, the three finalists from each age group will be displayed and voted on by attendees of First Friday Event on May 1, 2026

Prizes

- Winners from each age group will have their artwork professionally printed and distributed across the city at all Lincoln City Libraries and participating bookshops
- A special gift basket loaded with goodies from local businesses.
- Winners will be announced in Mid-May 2026.

Additional Notes

- By entering, participants grant permission for their bookmarks to be displayed publicly.
- Entries will not be returned unless specified.