

Media Release

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Immediate Release

Louisville resident wins first place in statewide competition

Husker Hotel and Restaurant for the Birds, winning entry

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (Sept. 30, 2020) – Nebraska State Fair invited the entire state to participate in a new contest this year. Nancy McManis from Louisville, Neb. is the winner with her “Husker Hotel and Restaurant for the Birds” entry.

Nearly 20 entries were submitted. First place, won by McManis receives two concert tickets, two gate admissions, and two meet and greet passes(*dependent on artist’s approval). Second place was won by the Meyer residence from Omaha. They will receive two concert and gate admission tickets. The Olson residence in Omaha won third place and will receive two gate admission tickets and two carnival wristbands.

McManis explained her entry on the official form, “my tree is unique because I adorned the top instead of decorating the bottom. I wrapped the limbs with colorful mesh and topped them off with painted Styrofoam balls and tucked in birdhouses and bird feeders. My front yard tree started as a lovely flowering crab. It was perfect for bird feeders and bird houses year-round. When we lost our bird sanctuary, we decided not to cut it down totally but trim it up and continue to invite local birds to our yard. I planted honeysuckle vine at the base and it finally bloomed this the third year.”

State residents were asked to follow the lead of over 40 central Nebraska non-profits that decorated State Fair Blvd at Fonner Park this summer. Nebraskans could “bomb a tree” at their homes, businesses, churches or schools across the state.

Nearly 20 entries were submitted statewide. Laura Hurley, director of sponsorships said, “I was enthusiastically surprised that so many people would put countless hours and effort into creating their version of tree bombing. For example, many of the entries had light installations which made their entry look different after dark. There were no two entries alike, everything seemed to be very original and very creative. They made beautiful things happen for their neighbors and community to enjoy.”

Complete results for the contest can be found on our website, statefair.org by searching under contests. Additional questions may be directed to: Lhurley@statefair.org. The benefits are to provide beauty, fun and community engagement across our great state.

“We are so grateful many participated and many more enjoyed the fruits of their creativity. Thank you for spreading a little more beauty in our great state,” mentioned Hurley. The plans for a 2021 contest is in the works and will be announced next year.

For more information on the state’s largest event, visit statefair.org.

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ABOUT NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

Traditionally, Nebraska State Fair is an annual 11-day event held in late August ending on Labor Day, at Fonner Park, in Grand Island, Nebraska. Celebrating 152 years of entertaining families, the State Fair is home to the finest facilities in the country.