



Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

## 2014 Theme – Los Altos Art Works Enrich Our Lives and Community

### Essay Instructions:

Please print your full name, address, phone number, school name, grade, and teacher's name on the top left side of the first page. PLEASE NOTE: Essays NOT containing this information will NOT be judged. Essays should be no more than 300 words and given to your teacher by March 7.

### Background:

The Los Altos History Museum is working in conjunction with SFMOMA on an off-site exhibit called “The Los Altos Project” during the fall of 2013 and the winter and spring of 2014. Various MOMA artworks are being shown in locations throughout downtown Los Altos. At the same time, the Los Altos History Museum is featuring an exhibit called “Los Altos Moving Art Forward.” This exhibit at the museum shows works by local artists in paint, photography, sculpture and mixed media.

The City of Los Altos has often been a place where art is encouraged and displayed. The Los Altos Arts Commission sponsors a public arts program to increase public awareness of the visual arts. There are many sculptures and other works of art in downtown Los Altos and in other locations around the community. These works of art include the metal mascot sculptures at each of the Los Altos School District schools, the tile wall art at several of the district schools, the Magic Fish at the Los Altos Library, the Dancing Man at the Los Altos Recreation Center, the Egrets at Shoup Park, the Dancers at Heritage Oaks Park, etc. To explore a more complete list of many of these works of art, look at the Los Altos Arts Commission website and/or the SFMOMA on the go website at the following links:

<http://www.losaltosca.gov/publicartscommission/page/public-sculpture>  
[http://www.sfmoma.org/exhib\\_events/exhibitions/572](http://www.sfmoma.org/exhib_events/exhibitions/572)

Take a walk around your school, your neighborhood, your local park, downtown Los Altos, and/or view the “Los Altos Moving Art Forward” exhibit at the History Museum. View some of the works of art in your community and select your favorite.

### Writing Prompt:

Take a journey into your mind and imagine what would happen if your favorite work of art came alive. Describe an experience or adventure that happened one day. Within your writing, identify your work of art and tell where it is located. Be sure to include a beginning, middle, and end. Think about developing an organized flow of ideas. As you write, use interesting vocabulary and creative ideas.

Win Cash Prizes  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$50    2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$30    3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$20  
3 winners per grade level!