

# ALASKA

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## RAILROAD

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### *News Release*

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DATE: Jan. 26, 2023  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Alaska Railroad solicits 2024 annual print ideas *Invites focus to be on Alaska Native heritage*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Entries for the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) annual commemorative artwork program are now open. For its 2024 print, the ARRC seeks artwork that pays homage to Alaska Native people, culture or heritage. Since 1979, the ARRC has commissioned an artist to create artwork as the basis for a commemorative print that is sold in gift shops and is a beloved souvenir for passengers who ride each year. The new focus for the 2024 print comes in a momentous year as the Alaska Railroad marks 100 years since the completion of its mainline in 1923.

In addition to featuring the Alaska Railroad, the selected artwork must also honor some aspect of Alaska Native people, culture and/or heritage. The ARRC envisions the finished piece as a way to acknowledge a linked history between the state's First Peoples and the 100-year-old Alaska Railroad.

Examples of that interconnection:

- During the initial construction of the Alaska Railroad between 1914 and 1923, Alaska Native laborers helped build the railroad's foundation.
- The railroad's main hubs are located on the traditional lands of the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq in Seward, the Athabaskan Dena'ina in Anchorage and the Ahtna Athabaskan and Lower Tanana in Fairbanks.
- Following World War II, Alaska Native people served on track maintenance crews.
- After the Alaska Railroad was transferred to the State of Alaska in 1985, Alaska Native leaders again helped the Alaska Railroad by guiding corporate policy as members of the ARRC board of directors.

"Alaska Native cultural and economic contributions have enriched our shared history," said Alaska Railroad External Affairs Manager Christy Terry. "As we mark our centennial, we would be remiss to not acknowledge the First Peoples who have called Alaska home for thousands of years. Realizing art breaks barriers, we would be honored to commission a print that captures how the state's railroad intertwines with Indigenous cultures and peoples in Alaska."

Artists should keep in mind important deadlines and qualification. ARRC retains all rights to the artwork and will produce at least 250 signed and numbered prints, several thousand posters and lapel pins for purchase in Alaska Railroad gift shops. The artist must participate in print/poster sale-and-signing events in Anchorage and Fairbanks. An additional community event may be added depending on the subject of the artwork. In turn, ARRC compensates the artist with \$5,000, 10 print proofs and 20 posters. The railroad also pays for the artist's travel expenses in relation to sale-and-signing events.

To be considered, artists must complete the [official artist application](#) by the **April 14, 2023**, deadline.

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## How to Enter

**Application:** Artists must complete the ARRC Annual Art Print Contest Artist Application.

Attachments:

- Your idea(s) - Artists should submit a sketch no larger than 11 x 17 inches. ***This is mandatory.***
- Your style - To provide some style context, artists should also include several samples of their finished artwork. This is *strongly recommended*.
- Your art-related background - provide some information about your art experience, education and/or achievements (*you may opt to include your CV or resume*).

**Submission Delivery:** Mail or hand-deliver submissions to the attention of John Simmons, Passenger Depot Services Manager:

- Mailing address: Alaska Railroad, P.O. Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510-7500
  - Hand delivery (call 907-265-2671 in advance to arrange a time) to:  
ARRC Headquarters, 327 W. Ship Creek Avenue in Anchorage
- Questions? Contact John Simmons at 907-265-2242, [SimmonsJ@akrr.com](mailto:SimmonsJ@akrr.com), or Stephenie Wheeler at 907-265-2671, [WheelerS@akrr.com](mailto:WheelerS@akrr.com)

## Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 26, 2023 – the contest entry period begins
- Friday, April 14, 2023 – print contest submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m.
- End of April 2023 – Committee review complete; winning entry selected.
- Early May 2023 – Artists are notified of contest results.
- Friday, May 19, 2023 – Submissions must be retrieved (or mailed in self-addressed envelope).
- Friday, May 26, 2023 – Submissions not retrieved will be discarded.
- Friday, Aug. 11, 2023 – Chosen artist must deliver completed artwork.
- November 2023 – Art print and poster are released for sale to the public.
- Last quarter 2023 – Chosen artist participates in sale-and-signing events.

A list and images of previous ARRC art prints are available on the railroad's web site at: [www.AlaskaRailroad.com](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com) > corporate > in the community. For more information on the art program, visit [www.AlaskaRailroad.com/corporate/community](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com/corporate/community).

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The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, [zappasj@akrr.com](mailto:zappasj@akrr.com), (907) 265-2682; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired - dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats.