

News Release

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Alaska Railroad releases 2026 official print

“Ship Creek Crossing” sign and sale events with artist Richard Rearick coming to Anchorage and Fairbanks in January

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is proud to announce the release of its 2026 annual art print, “Ship Creek Crossing”, by Alaskan artist Richard Rearick. The public is invited to meet the artist and purchase signed prints and posters at special events scheduled in Anchorage and Fairbanks in January 2026.

“Ship Creek Crossing” captures a freight train crossing Ship Creek in downtown Anchorage, a familiar scene to many Alaskans and out-of-state visitors. Located at Alaska Railroad milepost 114.3, the bridge is slated for construction in late 2025 to 2026 as part of the railroad’s bridge rehabilitation and replacement program. The current Pratt-style pony truss bridge will be replaced with a modern ballast deck bridge and a new steel pile foundation. For decades, the bridge has quietly served as a backdrop for fishing, walking and biking along the Ship Creek corridor. Its historical and economic significance inspired the Alaska Railroad’s selection of Rearick’s painting for the 2026 Art Print Program.



Richard Rearick’s “Ship Creek Crossing” was selected for the Alaska Railroad’s 2026 Art Print Program. Photo Courtesy: Alaska Railroad

Artist and architect Richard Rearick said, “When I entered the competition, I did not know that the existing bridge was going to be replaced this year. I think the title honors the memory of this historic bridge and Ship Creek as the hub of the Alaska Railroad.” He continued, “The scene reflects on the importance of the Alaska Railroad as an integral part of Anchorage and Alaska’s history, economy, transportation and culture. The trains that pass through Anchorage on a daily

basis offer a familiar ambiance to the fabric of the city and surrounding landscape. Mount Susitna stands proud in the background as an icon of the enduring, familiar and ever-present natural beauty that is an integral part of ARRC's rail lines. The image celebrates Alaska Railroad's importance and its scenic interface with nature at the Ship Creek crossing."

Rearick graduated from East Anchorage High School and later graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He has been a licensed professional architect in Alaska for more than 30 years. In architecture school, Rearick enrolled in drawing, watercolor and pottery classes and also did a lot of sketching. Following his formal education, he found time to maintain his creative and artistic interests but did not necessarily find time for sketching. In 2022, Rearick attempted his first acrylic painting and has since continued to expand his knowledge and methods. When asked about his inspiration to paint, he speaks fondly of his late mother, Victoria Rearick, who was active in the Alaskan art community for more than 40 years, saying "She was fearless as an artist, always trying something new and continuously challenging herself." Rearick has been driven to further his painting experience by taking on new challenges and entering several art competitions, winning both the 2025 and 2026 Fur Rondy collector pin designs. Encouraged by a friend, he decided to submit his idea for the Alaska Railroad's Annual Art Print Program. His enthusiasm and commitment to art are reflected in his work. Rearick's artwork is highly detailed and crafted with thoughtful attention to the balance of colors between both the natural world and architectural features.

More of Rearick's art can be found at:

- <https://richard-rearick.pixels.com>
- <https://www.richardrearick.com>



Above: Artist Richard Rearick stands next to his painting "Ship Creek Crossing". Below: Dedication to Rearick's late mother, Victoria Rearick on the painting's frame. Photo Courtesy: Alaska Railroad



The public will be able to meet artist Richard Rearick at two Alaska Railroad sign and sale events scheduled for January 2026:

- **ANCHORAGE:** Saturday, Jan. 10, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Anchorage Historic Depot (411 W. 1st Avenue, Anchorage)
- **FAIRBANKS:** Saturday, Jan. 17, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Depot (1031 Alaska Railroad Depot Road, Fairbanks)

ARRC's art print program began 46 years ago, when renowned artist Jon Van Zyle was commissioned. Since that 1979 beginning, the annual tradition (except in 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a popular collector's item. Find more information, including history and images of past prints on www.alaskarailroad.com/corporate/community.

The Alaska Railroad is a state-owned corporation providing year-round inter-city public rail transportation and freight service from Seward to Anchorage to Fairbanks. Moving over 500,000 passengers and 3.5 million tons of freight annually, safety is at the core of its operations.

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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, (907) 265-2461; 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.