

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

14 July 2023

Fenland artists will get chance to shine in new railway art competition

Local artists will get the chance to have their work go on show in railway stations and exhibitions – and seen by potentially millions of people – in a new art competition celebrating Fenland’s historic railway line.

The Hereward Community Rail Partnership (CRP), which champions the Hereward Line between Peterborough and Ely and its stations at March, Manea and Whittlesey, has launched an art competition as part of its ten-year anniversary celebrations.

Everyone from young, budding Picassos to professional artists are being invited to put their creative talents to the test – with winners getting the unique opportunity to have their work displayed online and at railway stations, venues and exhibitions along the Hereward line and further afield in partnership with railway industry organisations.

The challenge is to create a piece of artwork that celebrates the Hereward Line and captures what people can see, visit and experience, all through travelling by train in Fenland. It could be inspired by the unique Fenland landscape and heritage, rail travel or stations, or even the communities and destinations along the line.

The art competition was officially launched on Wednesday, 5 July, during the Community Rail Partnership’s coffee morning at March Railway Station. The closing date for submissions is 8 September 2023 and there are five entry categories:

- Colouring Fenland images (for ages 5-11).
- Junior Artist aged 5-11.
- Young Artist aged 12-18.
- Art Student (evidence of your place of study is required)
- Amateur Artist, aged 19 and over.
- Professional Artist, aged 19 and over.

The winning artwork will be used to help promote the Hereward Line, the importance of local historic railways and sustainable travel, and local tourism opportunities.

Cllr Chris Seaton, Chairman of the Hereward CRP, Fenland District Council’s Portfolio Holder for Transport and Chairman of the March Station Project Board, said: “This art competition is a fantastic opportunity for local artists to have their work seen by potentially millions of people! Not only at the five stations along the Hereward Line and on Hereward Line promotional items but also online and in places across the local community and UK.

“We will be holding a ten-year anniversary art exhibition at one of our Hereward Line stations during November 2023 so the public can view the submitted entries and vote for a ‘people’s choice’ winner.

“The competition is open to everyone and with all levels of artistic ability – so whether you’re a professional, a hobbyist, somewhere in between or an interested member of the community why not take part?”

- More information, including full entry details and prizes, are available on the Hereward CRP’s website at: www.herewardcrp.org/art-competition

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Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk