

# Adult Submission Information

From the earliest days of railroading, many companies and cars had their own form of flashy advertisements. Introduced in the 1890s, drumheads were an eye-catching and memorable way to acclimate the general public to the railroad companies servicing their area. Drumheads were made in every shape, color, and lighting style you could imagine. These signs could tell you a couple of facts about the train, such as the railroad, where it operated, and something that set it apart from other train routes. These cars would also have fun and unique names, such as the *Silver Meteor* or *The Olympian*. The drumheads sometimes also had graphics on them that would give a fun fact about that particular car or railroad. A great example is the *Empire Builder*, which had a mountain goat on it indicating that the train ran through the mountains. And even though drumheads are an icon of the past, some of the passenger trains that run today still carry their names! The National Railroad Museum has the largest collection of drumheads in the world with 48 drumheads in our collection.

We invite you to create a drumhead inspired by local history and railroad geography. Alongside your drumhead submission, you must include an artist statement describing your artwork in no more than 250 words. This artist statement should include what the iconography of your drumhead represents and its historical context. You are highly encouraged to consider the following questions when creating your artist statement:

- What is the title, or name, of your drumhead?
- How does your drumhead relate to current or historical railroading culture?
- How does your drumhead follow the United States passenger train routes and your area's local railroad history?
- Why did you decide on this creation?
- How does your work relate to current events or historical context?

## Submissions must include:

- A two-dimensional, *original* art piece depicting local history and/or railroad history. This may include but is not limited to, train history, moments of historical significance, important landmarks, historical figures, and local lore. This contest seeks to educate the public in local history and culture. **Incorporating railroad history is highly encouraged but not required.**
- Submissions must be uploaded using the attached templates. Entries must be submitted via email to [nrrmeducation@nationalrrmuseum.org](mailto:nrrmeducation@nationalrrmuseum.org); mailed-in artworks will not be accepted.

- A corresponding, legible essay of no more than 250 words. Essays must put into context the artist's submission. Essays must be written with full sentences, no spelling errors, and proper grammar. Submission will not be accepted if it is illegible.
- Submissions are open now until **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**

Entries will be evaluated based on originality, interpretation of subject matter/theme, creative techniques, composition, and overall art appearance. Submissions must be uploaded in one of the following formats: jpeg., png., pdf., word.

## **NRRM Drumhead Design Competition Rules and Regulations**

The youth competition is open to all children under 16. The adult competition is open to all individuals 16 and up.

Submitted artwork and corresponding essay must be of the participants' own creation; the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at any point in the creation or submission process of this competition will not be accepted.

Submitted entries must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. The inclusion of any imagery from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the artist is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. The inclusion of copyrighted material will not be accepted. This includes but is not limited to: trademarked sports logos, promotional material, and railroad logos. Sexually explicit material will not be tolerated. Additionally, a submission constituting solely of photographic materials will not be accepted.