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POLAR EXPRESS BRINGS ATRAIN USA TO OWOSSO

ANN ARBOR, MI – Artrain USA rolls into Owosso, MI behind the Polar Express (Pere Marquette 1225) as the Steam Railroading Institute presents American’s Hometown Art Museum, and its nationally touring art exhibition, Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture in Mid-October.

“We are honored to have the venerable Pere Marquette 1225 transport our collection,” states Debra Polich, President and CEO of Artrain USA. “This locomotive is the inspiration for the Polar Express, and it is no secret why, he embodies the mystery and romance of the railways.”

Artrain USA offers an entertaining, educational and informative experience for visitors of all ages. While aboard vintage railcars, visitors can tour the art galleries, watch artists at work and purchase original works of art or souvenirs from the museum gift shop. Artrain USA will be open to the general public Saturday and Sunday, October 22 and 23 from 10 pm to 4pm with pre-scheduled school and educational group tours taking place on Thursday and Friday, October 20 and 21. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged.

The Pere Marquette 1225 is accurately portrayed in last year’s big screen release of The Polar Express, the beloved children’s story. The locomotive is depicted in animation, while the sounds are actual recordings of The Pere Marquette. The locomotive was built in 1941, and in 1957 was saved from the scrap yard by officials at Michigan State University. In 1983, under the direction of the Michigan State Trust for Railway Preservation, 1225 was moved to the site of the former Ann Arbor Railroad’s steam shop. Restoration continued until 1988 when the locomotive was reborn and ready for service, making it the largest operable steam locomotive in Michigan. Funding for Artrain USA’s Michigan State Tour is provided by DTE Energy Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), AAA Michigan, Consumers Energy Foundation, DeRoy Testamentary Foundation, Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. Transportation is provided by CSX Corporation, Norfolk Southern, Rail America, Tuscola and Saginaw Bay Railway Co., Mid Michigan Railroad, Railway Co., Huron and Eastern Railroad, and

Lake State Railway Co. To learn more about Artrain USA, and to see images from Native Views, visit www.artrainusa.org or call 1.800.ART.1971. To see the Pere Marquette transport Artrain USA, please call for the exact schedule.

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