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Spring Artrain Visit Excites All Plymouth

Nothing ever has stirred as much excitement among artistically and culturally minded residents of the Plymouth area as the impending visit to that city of the Michigan Artrain.

The five-car "Vision of Art" which was created last year by the Michigan Council for the Arts will stand in Plymouth on the C & O siding at the Starkweather Ave. freight office for 18 days, beginning Wednesday, April 19 and continuing through Saturday, May 6.

OF 23 appearances booked throughout Michigan for 1972, this is the only showing which has been arranged in Observerland for what, in effect, is a gallery on wheels.

There will be no admission charge at any time to go through Artrain, and many visitors from surrounding communities are expected to take advantage of the opportunity.

The site for the train is in the northeast portion of Plymouth, in an area known as Old Village, and vast improvements in appearance already are under way through the efforts of a site beautification committee.

ARTRAIN carries a distinguished gallery of many original pieces of traditional and contemporary paintings, sculptures and other art objects. The three passenger cars plus a baggage car and caboose which house the exhibits were contributed and redesigned for this purpose by the Michigan Railroads Association. Railroads serving the local communities on the visitation schedule provide engines to haul the train.

It is designed to be a stimulating force wherever it visits bringing about activities and events that can become annual functions. In Plymouth it overshadows all else as spring of '72 approaches.

EFFORTS TO schedule Artrain for Plymouth first were begun nearly two years ago by the Community Fine Arts Council, when it became apparent that the train actually would become a reality as the result of mounting statewide interest. From the beginning, the coordinator of the project has been Mrs. Ray (Jo) Hulce, head of the CFAC which is

active in Plymouth's cultural affairs throughout the year.

However, instead of aiming for just a one-shot promotion, leaders of the community banded together to form an organization that is known as "Kaleidoscope Plymouth" as a permanent entity, with Artrain merely its first undertaking.

IT IS the goal that "Kaleidoscope Plymouth" will remain the theme and springboard for reflection of Plymouth's creative spirit in subsequent years through promotion of other cultural events each spring.

"Just as a kaleidoscope produces an endless and exciting variety of ever-changing images, we hope that 'Kaleidoscope Plymouth' also will reflect the many facets of creative spirit in our community," said a spokesman.

"We propose to perpetuate this opportunity through an annual spring celebration by providing an opportunity for our citizens to demonstrate their abilities through all of the great art forms. Artrain will be the catalyst to kick off this awareness."

THE PLYMOUTH organizers have taken seriously the suggestion from Lansing that any local visit of Artrain be seized upon as a means of showcasing community creativity, and a host of organizations have planned special undertakings.

Mrs. Denver (Gae) McCord, chairman of the community activities committee, this week listed these as among the participants:

American Association of University Women, Three Cities Art Club, Western Suburban Stamp Club, all Plymouth schools, Plymouth Study Club, Plymouth Nursing Association, Gaffield Photographic Studio, Plymouth House Galleries, D.A.R., Plymouth Garden Club, Parent-Teacher Associations, Jaycees, Retailers Association, Plymouth Grange, Youth, Inc., National Honor Society, St. John's Seminary, Plymouth Auto Dealers, Waterwaves, Boy and Girl Scouts, Plymouth Council of Churches, Schoolcraft College and the Plymouth Symphony.

Many business firms also are participating individually in providing materials and services, and representatives of both the city government and the C&O also have cooperated to the fullest.

