

# UNION DEPOT FACT SHEET

St. Paul's historic Union Depot is one of America's great rail stations from the early 20th century. A departure from the expected, there's nothing else like it in the Twin Cities. After undergoing an extensive renovation, the fully restored Union Depot, owned by Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, is open to the public as a home for celebrations and a hub of travel activity. Magnificent to behold, it's a true gathering place - past, present and future.

## About Union Depot

- Union Depot reopened in 2012, and is owned by the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) and managed by JLL.
- James J. Hill incorporated the St. Paul Union Depot Co., representing nine railroads, in order to build one passenger rail station.
- There have actually been two Union Depots in St. Paul. The first depot completed in 1881, but was destroyed by fire in 1913. The second depot, in operation today, was designed by Charles Sumner Frost, was constructed between 1917-1926, and closed in 1971, following the departure of the last passenger train.
- At its peak in the 1920s, almost 300 trains passed through Union Depot daily, carrying 20,000 passengers.
- The Head House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.
- The Concourse, Waiting Room and Train Deck were placed on the National Register of Historic places in 2014.
- Union Depot is located steps away from the St. Paul Farmers Market, St. Paul Saints' CHS Field and many great Lowertown restaurants.
- Encompasses 33 acres of land, representing approximately one-third of the downtown St. Paul riverfront.
- Eco-friendly amenities include electric vehicle charging stations, car sharing, fuel-efficient vehicle parking, full-service bicycle center, bicycle storage and parking and other bike/pedestrian enhancements.
- Current tenants include Amtrak, Hertz, Jefferson Lines, Lowertown Bike Shop, RedTeam Security, Royal Zeno Shoe Shine, The Java Express and Twin Cities Jazz Festival.
- Union Depot also houses 39 privately owned residential condos.

## Awards

- LEED Gold Certification. Restored to its peak 20th century elegance, the building incorporates 21st century green building ideas.
- National Project of the Year: Historical Reservation/ Preservation - American Public Works Association
- Honor Award: Restoration and Renovation - The American Institute of Architects - Minnesota
- Minnesota Preservation Award - Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
- Best Project - Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

## Transportation

- Amtrak service and the return of passenger rail arrived at Union Depot on May 7, 2014.
- The Metro Transit Green Light Rail Line began service at Union Depot on June 14, 2014.
- Hundreds of buses serve Union Depot each week, including Metro Transit buses, Jefferson Lines, Greyhound, megabus.com, Treasure Island Casino Shuttle, Mystic Lake Casino Shuttle and connects to Minnesota Valley Transit Authority.
- Hertz offers rental car service out of Union Depot.
- Union Depot is also served by regional transitways, automobiles and bicycle and pedestrian connections.

## Events & Activities

- Five indoor and two outdoor venues make Union Depot the perfect setting for public events, private functions, arts and cultural festivals, concerts and more, with the ability to accommodate groups from 25 to 3,000.
- Free yoga classes are offered three times per week: Monday (5:30-6:30 p.m.) Tuesday (12:00-1:00 p.m.) and Saturday (9:00-10:00 a.m.).
- Free Games Galore happens every Wednesday (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- Public tours available for free every other Tuesday (11:00-11:30 a.m.).
- Private tours are offered to groups with a minimum of 15 persons and must be scheduled at least 30 days in advance - \$6 fee per person requested. For more information, contact tour personnel at 651.202.2700 or email [info@uniondepot.org](mailto:info@uniondepot.org).
- Full calendar of events is available at [www.uniondepot.org/events/eventcalendar](http://www.uniondepot.org/events/eventcalendar).



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# Restoration

- Total cost of the Union Depot project was \$243 million and included restoration, track installation and property purchases.
- 635,000+ total work hours were spent on the restoration project.
- Union Depot restoration employment by the numbers:
  - Created 4,400+ jobs, both on site and off site
  - 2,200 skilled workers participated throughout construction
  - Minority work force participation on site: 20%
  - Female work force participation on site: 7.3%
  - Disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) participation: 19.5%
- Decorative architectural features include: skylights, a decorative frieze (Waiting Room), Guastavino tile ceiling (Concourse), terrazzo tile (Waiting Room), Tennessee pink marble flooring (Head House), and one original staircase featuring puzzle-shaped tiles.
- RCRRA commissioned one-of-a-kind artwork to engage visitors and travelers throughout the building:
  - “Capital Stories” ceramic sculptures by Aldo Moroni
  - “Trainscape” ceramic mural by Amy Bauer and Brian Bolton
  - “Union Table” ping pong table by Andrew MacGuffie, Noah Keesecker and Petter Haakon Thompson
  - “Ode to Minnesota” table by Josie Lewis
  - “The Occidental Express,” “The East Friesian Flyer,” and “Asymptotic Line” – “Where We’ve Been, Who We Are and Where We’re Going” sculptures by Kyle Fokken
  - “A Dream of the Great Northern Railway” mythical “paleo-osteological” creatures by Michael Bahl
  - “Interactive Multimedia Artwork Platform” (IMAP) installations by Northern Lights.mn
  - Six historic and multicultural murals by Ralph Gilbert (in progress)
  - “Twin Waves” glass sculptures by Ray King
  - “Side Track” kinetic sculpture by Tim Prentice

Located in the dynamic Lowertown neighborhood of St. Paul, Union Depot is just steps away from the St. Paul Farmers Market and the CHS Field. Union Depot is host to events large and small and boasts 40,000 square feet of customizable event space and ample parking. Free wi-fi, skyway access and a variety of transportation options connect to just about anywhere making this a destination for all.



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