

All Aboard for the Tampa Union Station And National Train Day!

**An Invitation for Your Company to Sponsor the Seventh Annual Celebration of National Train Day at
One of Tampa's Most Beloved Landmarks**



Friends of Tampa Union Station is inviting your company to join the National Train Day celebration at Tampa Union Station by becoming a sponsor of the event, to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at several levels, making your participation both highly visible and cost-effective.

About Friends of Tampa Union Station

Friends of Tampa Union Station is an all-volunteer organization which advocates for the preservation of historic Tampa Union Station as both a landmark and transportation asset.

--Friends of Tampa Union Station Mission Statement

Friends of Tampa Union Station, Inc. is a grassroots, all-volunteer, nonprofit organization which is registered 501(c) (3) with the IRS. We're working actively to help assure Tampa Union Station's future through creating an endowment fund for ongoing restoration at Tampa Union Station and by engaging the public in a conversation about the past, present, and future of this Tampa institution.

To date, one of Friends of Tampa Union Station's most successful initiatives has been organizing National Train Day festivities at the station each year. In 2013, over 3,500 people came to Tampa Union Station for National Train Day to take in Amtrak equipment on display, model railroad displays, exhibits from a variety of local organizations on history and transportation, and much more.

In 2014, the seventh annual National Train Day (on Saturday, May 10) will take place at Tampa Union Station. The event will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of famous *Silver Service* trains which have operated from New York to Florida since 1938. There's much to celebrate! We're planning to make it a very special day and would like your company to be part of it.

Partnering with Friends of Tampa Union Station for National Train Day: Cost Effective Visibility for Your Company

The benefits of helping us preserve Tampa Union Station are substantial.

At the \$10,000/Diamond Sponsorship Level:

- 1) Your corporate logo (with clickable link to your corporate website) will be added to the Friends of Tampa Union Station home page at www.tampaunionstation.com for 2 years.
- 2) Your corporate logo will be added to all future Friends of Tampa Union Station publications, including banners and brochures, for 2 years. This includes recognition of our partnership with your company on a banner in the station's waiting room, which will be seen by many, including over 140,000 Tampa rail passengers each year.
- 3) Your company will become an official sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2014 and of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2015. What's more, your corporate name will be added to all publicity materials for the event, including press releases.
- 4) Your company's gift will be recognized in a media release and press conference at Tampa Union Station, announcing plans for National Train Day.
- 5) Your corporate name will be engraved on a brick paver to be permanently installed in the sidewalk in front of Tampa Union Station as part of Friends of Tampa Union Station's buy-a-brick campaign.

- 6) Your company will be made the initial, lead sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2014.
- 7) In addition, through this gift, your company will be able to utilize its sponsorship of the Tampa Union Station Preservation Fund and its support of the station in its publicity, including unrestricted use of the Friends of Tampa Union Station logo for 2 years.

At the \$5,000/Platinum Sponsorship Level:

- 1) Your company will become an official sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2014. What's more, your corporate name will be added to all publicity materials for the event, including press releases.
- 2) Your company's gift will be recognized in a media release and press conference at Tampa Union Station, announcing plans for National Train Day.
- 3) Your corporate name will be engraved on a brick paver to be permanently installed in the sidewalk in front of Tampa Union Station as part of Friends of Tampa Union Station's buy-a-brick campaign.
- 4) Your company will be made an initial, lead sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station.
- 5) In addition, through this gift, your company will be able to utilize its sponsorship of the Tampa Union Station Preservation Fund and its support of the station in its publicity, including unrestricted use of the Friends of Tampa Union Station logo for 1 year.

At the \$1,000/Gold Sponsorship Level:

- 1) Your company will become an official sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2014. What's more, your corporate name will be added to all publicity materials for the event, including press releases.
- 2) Your company's gift will be recognized in a media release and press conference at Tampa Union Station, announcing plans for National Train Day.
- 3) Your corporate name will be engraved on a brick paver to be permanently installed in the sidewalk in front of Tampa Union Station as part of Friends of Tampa Union Station's buy-a-brick campaign.
- 4) Your company's logo will be placed on a sponsorship banner for National Train Day 2014, which will be displayed at the event.

At the \$500/Silver Sponsorship Level:

- 1) Your company will become an official sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2014.
- 2) Your corporate name will be engraved on a brick paver to be permanently installed in the sidewalk in front of Tampa Union Station as part of Friends of Tampa Union Station's buy-a-brick campaign.
- 3) Your company's name will be listed on a sponsorship banner for National Train Day 2014, which will be displayed at the event.

At the \$250/Iron Sponsorship Level:

- 1) Your company will become an official sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station for 2014.
- 2) Your company's name will be listed on a sponsorship banner for National Train Day 2014, which will be displayed at the event.

Tampa Union Station: A Rich History

Tampa Union Station is one of the Tampa Bay area's most significant historic sites. Built in 1912 by the efforts of the Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard Air Line, and Tampa Northern Railroads, Tampa Union Station is on the National Register of Historic Places and a City of Tampa-designated Landmark.

The building—designed in an Italian Renaissance Revival style by architect J.F. Leitner—served as Tampa's main gateway for travel in an era before air transportation.

For 72 years following its opening, people from all walks of life passed through its doors, from World War II draftees heading off to training camps to college kids leaving home for the first time. World War I "Doughboy" soldiers departed Tampa from its platforms, as did celebrities and sports heroes ranging from Gary Cooper to Mickey Mantle.

Many thought Tampa Union Station's best days were behind it when the station closed its doors to the public in 1984. By then, the proud structure was suffering from decades of neglect—and the closure happened when the building was declared unfit for human habitation.

Tampa Union Station's prospects looked dim.

Happily, a group of ordinary citizens and professional preservationists changed that. Nearly all volunteers, the group worked for years to raise over \$4,000,000 in grants. Their efforts brought about the restoration of this wonderful landmark—today owned by the City of Tampa thanks to railroad company CSX's donation of Tampa Union Station to Tampa's citizens.

Tampa Union Station reopened to the public in 1998. Today it serves over 140,000 Amtrak passengers each year and stands ready to play a part in Tampa's transportation future.

Today Friends of Tampa Union Station is here to assure that the future of this Tampa landmark remains bright. Your corporate sponsorship of the seventh annual National Train Day will make it even brighter!

National Train Day at Tampa Union Station Sponsorship Form

Becoming a sponsor of National Train Day at Tampa Union Station is easy! Just complete the form below and return it to us by email or U.S. Mail!

Business or Individual Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City and State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax: _____

Email address: _____

Website: _____

Sponsorship level (circle one):

\$10,000/Diamond Sponsorship Level

\$ 5,000/Platinum Sponsorship Level

\$ 1,000/Gold Sponsorship Level

\$ 500/Silver Sponsorship Level

\$ 250/Iron Sponsorship Level

Additional contributions to the event are also welcome!

Return completed form by U.S. Mail to:

Friends of Tampa Union Station, Inc.

P.O. Box 20934

Tampa, FL 33622

Make checks payable to:

Friends of Tampa Union Station, Inc.

Or pay at www.tampaunionstation.com

With your credit card using 

Or return completed form by email to:

tampaunionstation@gmail.com

Thank You for Your Support!

Selected media coverage from National Train Day at Tampa Union Station 2013 and 2012:

<http://tbo.com/news/business/tampa-event-tracks-railroad-past-b82490278z1>



Published: May 11, 2013 | Updated: May 11, 2013 at 11:22 AM



Tampa event tracks railroad past

By Ted Jackovics

Tampa railroading past and present will be on display today at the sixth annual National Train Day at Union Station.

The Tampa event sponsored by Amtrak, Friends of Union Station, the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers and nine other businesses and organizations drew more than 3,000 people a year ago.

Beyond the event's railroad-oriented focus, visitors can get a sense of how the fortunes of the historic station that opened May 15, 1912, rose, fell into decline and were restored — not unlike the area on the edge of downtown where it is located.

"Things were pretty bleak both for the station and downtown Tampa in the 1970s and early 1980s, but the community has raised its profile and with Amtrak's commitment to the community, it is putting the spotlight on Union Station," said Jackson McQuigg, president of the Friends of Union Station.

While just one northbound and southbound Amtrak train serve Tampa daily on the Silver Star's New York-Miami run, Union Station was Amtrak's third busiest station in Florida in fiscal 2012 with 150,844 passengers, a 7.1 percent gain over the previous year.

Tampa ranked behind No. 1 Sanford, which serves the Auto-Train to Lorton, Va., and No. 2 Orlando, which has two daily trains northbound and southbound but only 21,658 more passengers than Tampa.

“It’s a great rise in ridership when you realize in the late 1990s, Union Station served just 40,000 passengers,” McQuigg said.

The free event from 10.a.m. to 5 p.m. includes Amtrak equipment displays, with tours inside an Amfleet II coach, a Viewliner I sleeper and a lounge car. A 4,200 horsepower Amtrak P42 diesel locomotive will be on display, but federal law bars tours of the cab.

In addition, volunteers will showcase interactive locomotive simulators and a telegraph exhibit — aka 19th Century Tweeting — along with two dozen other displays ranging from four operating model railroads to Atlantic Coast Line & Seaboard Air Line Historical Society souvenirs and books.

Burger Culture and Nate Paul’s Q4U food trucks will be on hand, while three local acts will provide music.

Visitors can park at the Twiggs Street Garage, less than 1½ blocks away from the station. Highway construction has limited station parking primarily to handicapped parking for the event.

A complete schedule of events is available at tampaunionstation.com.

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/history/2012/may/12/1/train-fans-celebrate-union-stations-centennial-ar-402984/>



Published: May 12, 2012

Updated: May 12, 2012 - 2:26 PM

Train fans celebrate Union Station's centennial

By Josh Poltilove



Royce Lugo grew up playing with toy trains. Today he introduced his son to them.

He brought his 7-month-old boy, Henry, with him to Union Station, a hub for rail transit that today celebrated its 100th anniversary.

"It's great that they've been able to preserve this building," he said. "I'm a big fan of architecture, and it's been preserved well."

The free event displayed everything from Lego trains to a model Santa Fe NW2 railroad to an actual train – an Amtrak Viewliner. People could walk through the Amtrak, listen to live music, see Union Station's original design and a check out a telegraph display.

"Seeing the expressions on the kids' faces – they're mesmerized by the trains," said Kevin Timmons, who helped run a 20-foot by 30-foot model railroad set up to loop around a small, orange-growing town.

Union Station, a two-story, Italian Renaissance revival-style building at 601 N. Nebraska Ave., opened May 15, 1912. The station brought citrus, tobacco and northern speculators to Tampa.

The station, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, served passengers through segregation, wars and the Great Depression. But it deteriorated through the years and closed to the public in 1984.

For years Amtrak's passengers from Tampa needed to use a temporary ticket office and waiting room in a prefabricated building next to Union Station's platforms. Ultimately city and local historic preservationists got involved in renovating the station. It underwent a multimillion-dollar facelift and reopened in 1998.

Now owned by the city, the station serves more than 140,000 Amtrak passengers each year, according to nonprofit group Friends of Tampa Union Station.

Gary King of Tampa walked through the Amtrak train today, admiring its design and taking photographs. He never before had been to Union Station, and he said it was gorgeous.

"There's so much nostalgia that goes with this station, and it's great that they kept this piece of history preserved," said King, whose grandfather was a railroad engineer. "What I look at is the history and the way trains first came to being and the marvelous amount of work and determination it took the previous generations to build these machines."

David King of Sarasota, who is not related to Gary King, celebrated his 67th birthday today at the station. He first rode a train when he was 3 years old and always has been fascinated by them.

"It's so comfortable," he said of train travel. "You get to see the land."

Peter Marschall, who attended the event with David King, said the station's 100th anniversary is a true achievement.

"It really looks impressive on the inside," he said. "I just wish they had more trains coming in."

<http://visitsouth.com/articles/article/national-train-day-tampa-union-station-tampa-fl/>

Visit South

National Train Day, Tampa Union Station, Tampa, FL

Station's ties to Tampa's past to be celebrated during National Train Day Saturday, May 12

by [Mary Lou Janson](#) | May 10, 2012

[0 Comments](#)



It's a ritual that's been repeated for 100 years. Within an hour of a train's arrival, passengers begin arriving at [Tampa Union Station](#) with personal items packed, ready to purchase tickets and eager to find comfortable places to wait before climbing aboard the sleek cars that will whisk them away to their destinations.

Whether it is the romance of the rails or more practical reasons that inspire people to go training, Tampa welcomes 140,000 passengers per year arriving to and departing from its beautifully restored station located between historic [Ybor City](#), and the increasingly lively downtown district.

Saturday, May 12, just days shy of the actual anniversary of Tampa Union Station's opening on May 15, it will be the host site for a stellar celebration in observance of National Train Day.

From 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, the free public event will feature Amtrak equipment exhibits, live music, food trucks, operating model trains and history presentations by Rodney Kite-Powell, curator of history at the [Tampa Bay History Center](#).

There will even be a demonstration of “19th century tweeting,” by members of the Florida Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club.

Though completed in 1912, the station closed in 1984 until it was re-opened, newly restored, in 1998. Despite the closure, service continued from a temporary ticket office and waiting area set up adjacent to the station platforms.

In 1988, the station became one of the first buildings tapped as a Tampa landmark due to a then-new-to-the-city historic preservation ordinance.

Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the station offers travelers food and drink from vending machines, features a few displays of model trains and train memorabilia but mainly serves as a striking reminder of an elegance of a bygone era. The Italian Renaissance Revival-style structure makes modern buildings appear quite boring and barren by comparison.

As it enters its centenarian years, Tampa Union Station continues to serve as a transportation hub as well as an occasional arts event venue. A non-profit volunteer group known as Friends of Tampa Union Station helps to keep the station in its current condition with the help of grants, donations and by selling commemorative, inscribed bricks that line the building’s exterior entrance.