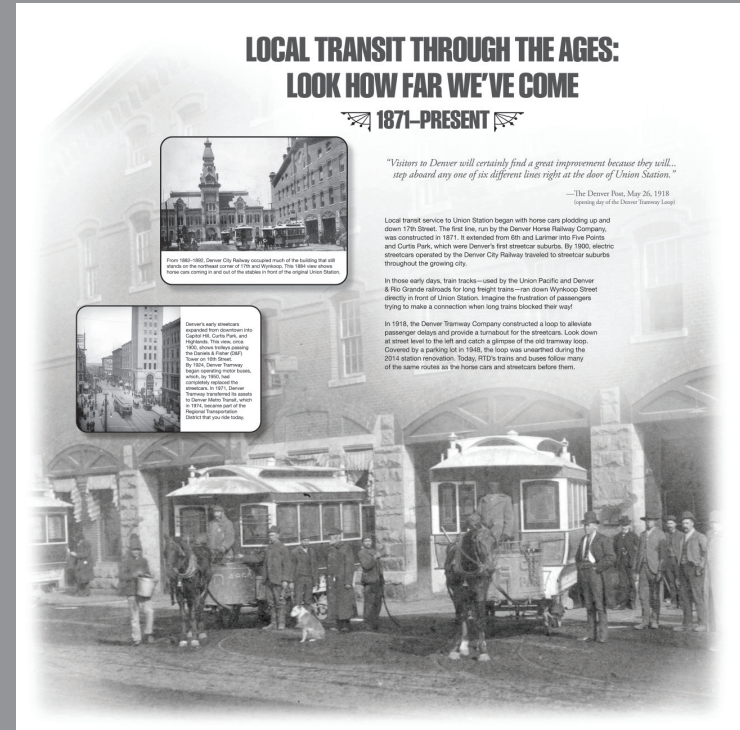


Celebrating Transit History: The Union Station Walking Tour

Category 3e: Best Marketing/Communications Educational Effort

Partnership



As part of the Union Station restoration project, RTD led a partnership of 11 entities in 2015 in honoring and preserving the historic significance of the landmark through creation of a walking tour featuring 7 interactive, large-as-life displays on the exact former sites of these historic elements. These mixed media installations combine concrete, plexiglass, vinyl, tile, steel, with historic images and narrative. Installation 1 details local transit through out the ages.



WELCOME TO UNION STATION: DENVER'S TRANSPORTATION HUB 1881-PRESENT



"Without suburbs, Denver would be too dead to bury."
—Bernie Cramer, Vice President
Union Pacific Railroad, 1957

A barometer of the city's growth, Union Station is the heart of our vibrant history. A landmark Denver station stands as a testament to the city's rich past and its role in the nation's development. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.


Since its first year opened in 1881, Union Station has been the heart of the city's transportation. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.

It was renamed the country's premier train station in 1906, and it has since become a landmark of the city. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.


During the late 1970s, Union Station was renovated to meet the needs of the modern traveler. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.


UNION STATION TIMELINE 1881-2014



- 1881: Union Station opens as the first major train station in Denver.
- 1883: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1890: The station is renamed Union Station.
- 1906: The station is renamed the country's premier train station.
- 1911: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1917: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1923: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1927: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1931: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1935: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1939: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1943: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1947: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1951: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1955: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1959: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1963: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1967: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1971: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1975: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1979: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1983: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1987: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1991: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1995: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 1999: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 2003: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 2007: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 2011: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.
- 2014: The station is expanded to accommodate the growing number of passengers.







THE PEOPLE OF THE STATION AND THE STORIES THEY TELL VOICES FROM THE PAST

"Union Station belongs to all of us."
—Union Station sign, 2002

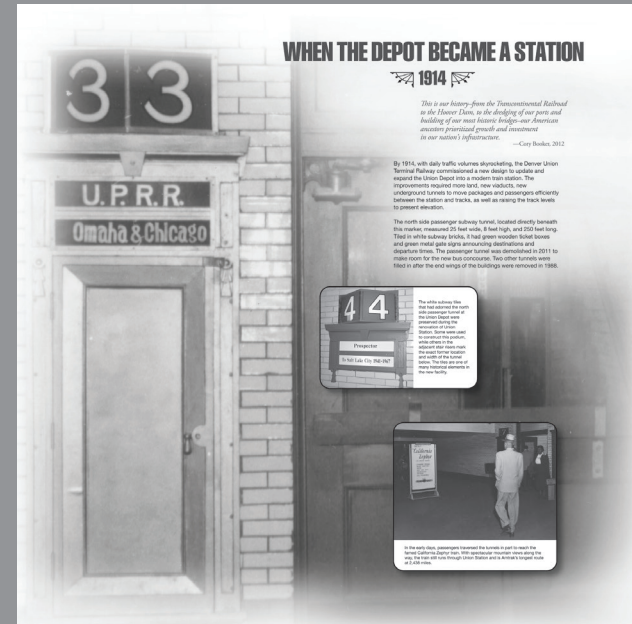
It is a place where the past and the present meet. The station is a living museum, a place where the stories of the past are told. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.

The building was built in 1881. It was a landmark of the city. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.

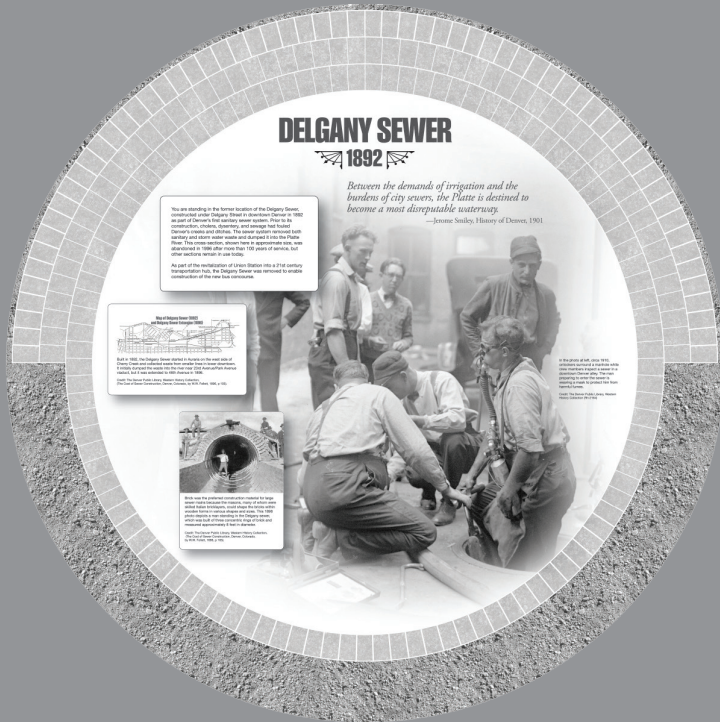
People who have lived and worked at Union Station have left their mark on the city. The building's architecture is a blend of classical and modern styles, reflecting the city's evolution over time.

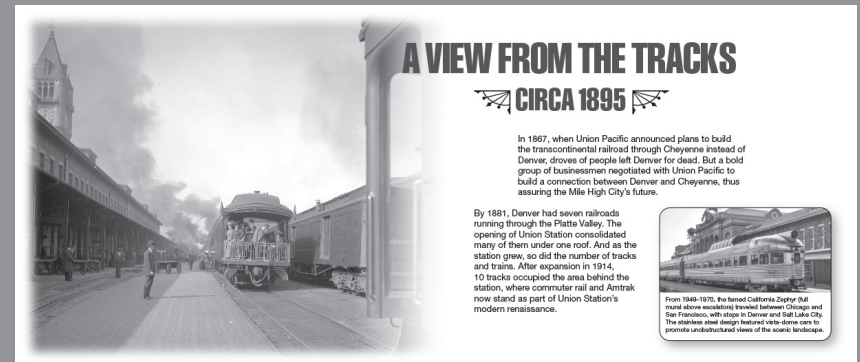
Installations 2, 3, and 4, situated in front of the main, iconic Union Station building, honor the history, timeline, and the people who have made the station great throughout the years.



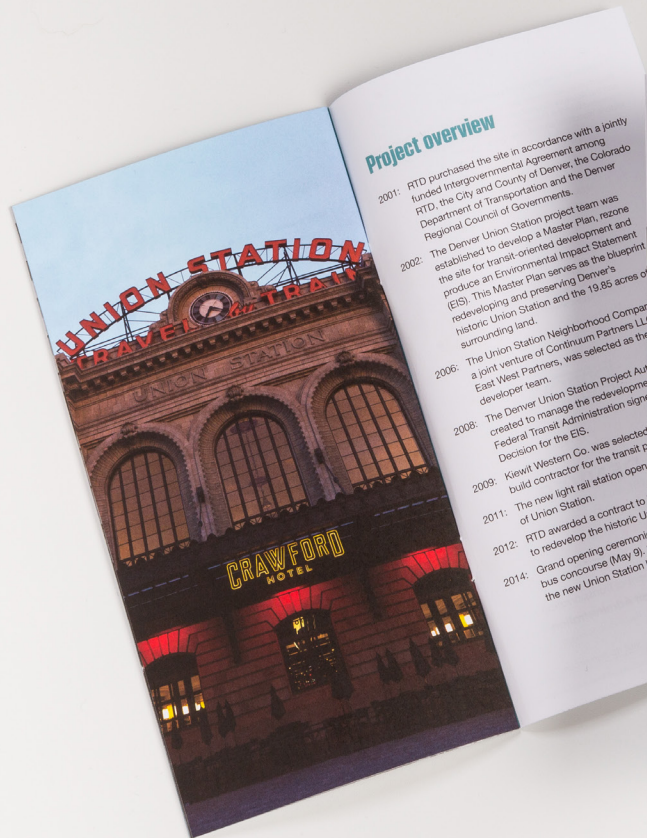
Installation 5, located directly adjacent to the train platform, marks the exact location of the former north side passenger tunnel. The white subway bricks evidenced in this podium were repurposed from the original tunnel.



Cut in a circle to mirror a sewer cover, Installation 6, located in the underground bus concourse, identifies the exact former location of Denver's first sanitary sewer system. It is pin mounted to steel posts and backlit.



Installation 7, projected onto the windows and glass of the Wewatta Pavilion entrance, pays homage to the seven railroads that once ran through the Platte Valley, on 10 tracks that are now the home of commuter rail. Pictured is the famed California Zephyr.



Project overview

- 2001: RTD purchased the site in accordance with a jointly funded Intergovernmental Agreement among RTD, the City and County of Denver, the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.
- 2002: The Denver Union Station project team was established to develop a Master Plan, rezone the site for transit-oriented development and produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This Master Plan serves as the blueprint for redeveloping and preserving Denver's historic Union Station and the 19.85 acres of surrounding land.
- 2006: The Union Station Neighborhood Compact, a joint venture of Continuum Partners LLC and East West Partners, was selected as the developer team.
- 2008: The Denver Union Station Project Authority was created to manage the redevelopment. The Federal Transit Administration signed a Decision for the EIS.
- 2009: Kiewit Western Co. was selected to build contractor for the transit platform and the new light rail station opening of Union Station.
- 2011: RTD awarded a contract to the historic Union Station Foundation to develop the historic Union Station Grand opening ceremony (May 9), and the new Union Station building.



The Union Station Signage Project

A historical walking tour



Installation 1

(on Wynkoop Street, just north of 16th Street)
 Known as the Tramway Loop, this location conveys the early history of Union Station, from horsecars to streetcars. Look down at street level to the left and catch a glimpse of the old tramway loop. Covered by a parking lot in 1948, the loop was unearthed during the 2014 station renovation. Today, RTD's trains and buses follow many of the same routes as the horsecars and streetcars before them.

Installation 2, 3, & 4

(on Wynkoop Street, at 17th Street, in front of the main entrance to Union Station)
 These three panels collaborate to convey rich elements of Union Station's history. They are meant to be read from left to right, as you would read standard English. Immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the timeline. Immerse yourself in the facility's early origins and transformations, and read about the unique, humble, and extraordinary people who contributed to Union Station through the ages.