



*Preserving the History of Union Station. Developing its Future.*

***Summer 2013***



— LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT —

We had a busy spring at Union Station. The Cherry Blossom festival brought many visitors to the Station and we again hosted the Cherry Blossom Arts contest in the West Hall and Main Hall. There were over six hundred entries with winners in four categories. Union Station Investco, the developer and operator of the Station, hosted the first Earth Month throughout April. Among the many participants were NASA and the DC Department of the Environment. The NASA balloon and events like the "green fashion show" were especially popular.

In May, stakeholders of Union Station joined Amtrak in celebrating National Train Day. Amtrak, Akridge (the developer of the Air Rights) and USRC talked to hundreds of visitors about the new plans for Union Station while the Union Station Preservation Coalition provided tours and information about the historic building. Read more about our Train Day events and see the pictures of our "hugger."

As always, in the spring, the Station played host to tens of thousands of school children visiting the Nation's Capital as part of school field trips. Patrons of the Station were occasionally entertained by visiting school choirs and bands.

Our construction projects continue in efforts to preserve our iconic structure and improve its functionality as a multimodal transportation facility. Please continue reading our newsletter for more information on our events and our improvements. Union Station can be a great place to visit during the summer too, so please come join us!

- Beverley Swaim-Staley  
*President & CEO*

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## — NEWS & EVENTS —

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Construction along 1st Street, NE continues throughout the summer from G Street north into the NoMa area neighborhood to New York Ave. Please allow extra time and use caution. More information on the construction [here](#).

Construction on H Street, NE from the Hopscotch Bridge to 4th Street, NE continues for the upcoming DC Streetcar, which is expected to be operating in early 2014. This project has brought changes to vehicle access on the bridge primarily to the shared driveway for access to the Union Station east loading dock and Station Place loading dock. This entrance will now be right-in, right-out only. More information click [here](#).

**May 2013:** Union Station is now powered 100% by wind power! Learn more [here](#).

**May 11:** National Train Day: This year's National Train Day was another success and was well attended. The nation-wide event is celebrated at over 100 train stations and museums across the country. Union Station offered numerous events and exhibits, including tours of both historic and modern-day trains, a large model train, interactive and educational activities for children and their families and the chance to meet the K-9 teams that keep train travel safe.

USRC, Amtrak, and Akridge were on site with the Union Station Master Plan model demonstrating the many exciting opportunities the future holds for the second busiest train station in the country.



David Tuchmann of Akridge showcases the Master Plan Model. Historic trains on exhibit for tours.

Train Day got some extra TLC thanks to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other members of the Union Station Preservation Coalition. Partnering with DC artist Lindsay Rowinski, the group brought the highly love-able performance art project "Embracing Things Larger Than Myself" to historic Union Station. A playful rekindling of people's romance with the Station through the simplest of gestures – a hug. Lots of hugs, actually. The group moved throughout the cherished landmark, wrapping their arms around diverse locations and architectural features that speak to the structure's past, present, and future as a dynamic transportation hub and what makes Union Station a National Treasure.



Hugging the large ionic columns in the front of the station.



Wrapping arms around the Amtrak Acela train. Photos of Ms. Rowinski courtesy of Pepper Watkins.

**May 27:** WUSA 9News, Monika Samtani, interviewed USRC President and CEO, Beverley Swaim-Staley, regarding the redevelopment plans at Union Station. Watch the interview [here](#).



Francesca's Grand Opening was **June 15th**. The new store is located on the mezzanine level next to Ann Taylor.

**June 18:** Le Pain Quotidien opened their doors to the public in the West End of the Shopping Concourse.

Take a peak at their [menu](#).

**Retail Coming Soon:**  
H&M, Bold Bites,  
Polaroid Fotobar



**September 2013:** The Union Station Bus Deck Improvements will be completed this summer and a Ribbon Cutting will be held in mid-September. Check our website for details coming soon.

**September 29, 2013:** Union Station will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Grand Re-Opening of the Station! More information will be available on our website soon.

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## — UNION STATION PROJECTS —

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### *Union Station Bus Deck Improvements*

The Union Station Bus Deck has been undergoing major improvements in the past months. Since our last update the waiting area pavilion, the new retail pavilion, and passenger restrooms have all been delivered and installed (watch the video [here](#)). New flooring is currently being laid and the finishing touches should conclude by July. A ribbon cutting ceremony will mark the completion in mid-September so please check back for more information.



Bus Deck Waiting Area and Lobby.



Retail pavilion.

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### *Columbus Plaza Completion*

In early May, Mayor Gray joined Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton; FTA Administrator, Peter Rogoff; Council-member Mary Cheh; DDOT Director, Terry Bellamy; U.S. National Park Service Facilities Management Chief, Sean Kennealy; and Amtrak's Chief Marketing and Sales Officer, Matt Hardison to officially mark the completion of Columbus Plaza reconfiguration project. The

ribbon cutting brought together the many agencies that made this project possible. The historic plaza is now more functional for both pedestrians and vehicles accessing the Station.



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton speaking.

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### *Main Hall Restoration*

When passing through Union Station's Main Hall, you have noticed the large restoration project underway. However, you may not have noticed the informative panels that explain the evolution of the historic grand Waiting Room ceiling. USRC engaged historic experts, John Bowie of John Bowie & Assoc. and Bill Wright of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, to develop interpretive panels explaining the Main Hall historic restoration project. The panels were installed in the Main Hall to demonstrate the chronological evolution of the historic Main Hall ceilings and the current restoration underway. The panels will remain installed throughout the duration of the restoration project as they move along with the rolling scaffold. You can find them on our [website](#) too.

Construction is now fully underway in Bay 1; and as each of the five Bays is completed, the scaffold overhead will slide from west to east. This is your opportunity to witness history in the making as the before and after is revealed and another chapter is written in the history of the beautiful historic landmark.

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— INTERESTING FACT —

There are 255 hexagonal coffers in the Main Hall ceiling decorated with egg and dart molding and gold leaf gilding can be found at the center of each. In addition, there are over 350 diamond and triangular accents between the large coffers, each delicately gilded in gold. Between each bay are bands of gold and to the west a beautiful voussoir with hand painted details. During the 1980's renovation, more than 70 pounds of gold leafing were used, which is incredible considering a 3" gold leaf square is approximately 15 grams (or .03lbs). In the current restoration, the coffers and multiple accents will receive 100% new gilding performed by The Gilder's Studio, Inc. out of Olney, Maryland.



Gilder, Mike Kramer, sizing the west wall voussoir. Special roller sheets are used along with the standard 3" squares for large surface applications such as the Union Station project.

### *Congratulations...you will be missed!*

Linda Davenport is the Superintendent of Passenger Services for the Mid-Atlantic Division of Amtrak. Linda has been with Amtrak just three months shy of 39 years! Having worked in many departments within the organization, from marketing to operations and District Manager of Commuter Services, Linda has a full understanding of the many aspects of the organization and is an expert at her current role. Unfortunately (for us) this July, Linda will be retiring. We at USRC, along with our many associates and consultants who have had the pleasure of working with her, would like to wish her the best of luck in her future and a very enjoyable retirement as she travels along her journey – hopefully aboard the Acela. Linda, you will be missed!

## *What is USRC?*

In 1983, The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) was established as a non-profit organization charged with overseeing Washington Union Station's restoration and renaissance as a multi-modal transportation facility and a retail/entertainment center while preserving its significant historic character. Today, USRC continues to oversee Union Station as it evolves into a premier world class inter-modal facility meeting the needs of more than 100,000 people who stream through the station daily. The USRC generates its revenue through operation of the parking garage and management of the developer's lease.

Beverley Swaim-Staley – President & CEO  
Nzinga Baker – Vice President & Director of Finance & Administration  
Cindy Petkac – Principal Planner    Tom Whitaker – Project Manager  
Dina Castillo – Contracts Manager  
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