



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

Winter 2013 | Edition II | Vol. 4



— INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT —  
by Beverley K. Swaim-Staley

---

As the year comes to a close, we give thanks to those who have worked with us in an ongoing effort to enhance the station. Completed projects this year have helped: enhance usability for bus riders; upgrade equipment; and repair and preserve the historic integrity of the station damaged from the earthquake. In addition, alongside our many partners, we continue to develop the Union Station Master Plan, and look forward to a year filled with many more successes!

As we continue to develop partnerships with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the District Department of Transportation, we are excited about a few projects in particular that will enhance the experience for all station visitors. Below is a summary of some of these planned initiatives.

---

## — NEWS & EVENTS —

---

**MARC Weekend Service:** Saturday, December 7th MARC began weekend service running from Union Station to Baltimore's Penn Station. Penn Line trains will run nine round trips on Saturdays and six round trips on Sundays. The new weekend schedule is available [here](#).

**H Street Streetcar:** The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is nearing construction completion of the H Street Streetcar line. Testing is set to begin in December as the first car touched was placed on the tracks this past weekend. The Streetcar is expected to be operational by Spring, 2014.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11: National Symphony Orchestra is performing two free concerts at Union Station. The performances will be held in the East Hall at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

February 11: Uline Arena celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Beatle's First Concert in the United States.

---

## — UNION STATION PROJECTS —

---

### *Christmas at Union Station*

Decorated for the holiday season, Union Station celebrated with a Christmas Tree lighting and model train display, annual gifts of the Norwegian Embassy since 1996. Members of the New York Opera Society and The Caroles of Greater Washington performed at the event, December 3rd, in the Carriage Porch.



## *Main Hall Improvements*

National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) announced a \$350,000 corporate donation from American Express to Union Station. With a long history of philanthropy, American Express is deeply committed to historic preservation, providing more than \$50 million in grants to preserve historic places globally. Union Station was added to this growing portfolio of sites in 2012 to ensure the historic station is protected while it's transformed to serve the growing demands of the 21st century. The grant will assist USRC in re-gilding the ceiling inside the Main Hall by aiding in the replacement of more than the 120,000 sheets of 23-karat gold leaf adorning the 96 foot barrel-vaulted ceilings. The 23 karat, 18 gram weight gold leaf material will replace the current 22 karat, 14 gram weight gold leaf material, resulting in a more lustrous finish and restoring the ceiling to its original splendor.



## *Garage Escalator Replacement Project*

The first three escalators, located between Levels 1-4 of the parking garage were completed, tested and put into “up” operation on Monday, December 9th. The adjacent escalators were immediately barricaded and demolition has begun in an effort to replace those as well. The new escalators are equipped with an energy-saving “sleep” mode that slows the escalators down when not used for more than 5 minutes. Motion sensors detect an approaching passenger and automatically return the escalators to normal speed before the person boards the escalator.



---

### *National Trust For Historic Preservation Grant*

USRC was recently awarded grant funds by NTHP for the development of a Smart Phone application. The grant will require a 100% match by USRC. The application will showcase the significance of Union Station as a historic landmark, highlighting it's original construction, redevelopment in the 1980s, and future development plans with Amtrak and Akridge. In December USRC engaged Mr. William Wright (a highly regarded expert on the specific features of Union Station who currently leads the Committee of 100 on the Federal City's Subcommittee on Historic Preservation and Zoning) to provide the content for the application. The application is expected to be available to the public Summary, 2014.

---

— GET TO KNOW —

---

### *USRC's Project Manager, Tom Whitaker*



Tom recently joined USRC as Project Manager. Hailing from Ann Arbor, Michigan where he has lived for the past 30 years, Tom is finding the winters here to be mild at best. He enjoys enjoys downhill skiing, visiting historic sites, dinner parties with good friends, working on his old house, and generally fixing things - anything from cars to vacuum cleaners.

In his early twenties Tom worked in the music business, running sound systems at concerts, working in a recording studio, and eventually playing drums in a band. During the day he painted and restored old houses, where he began to develop an appreciation for the interesting design and quality craftsmanship of historic buildings.

After failing to make it big in the music business (*sadly*), Tom decided to pursue his passion for historic buildings on a grander scale by studying construction management, and specializing in major historic rehabilitation projects. He is happy to be in Washington, DC and helping to guide the rehabilitation of historic

Washington Union Station. Tom finds it exciting to watch the cosmetic historic elements—the ones that people see—get repaired and refreshed. And at the same time, finds it satisfying to know we're also upgrading the hidden systems—what he calls the bones, heart and lungs, and nervous systems of the building.

Tom holds a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University.

---

— INTERESTING FACTS —

---

*Did You Know...*

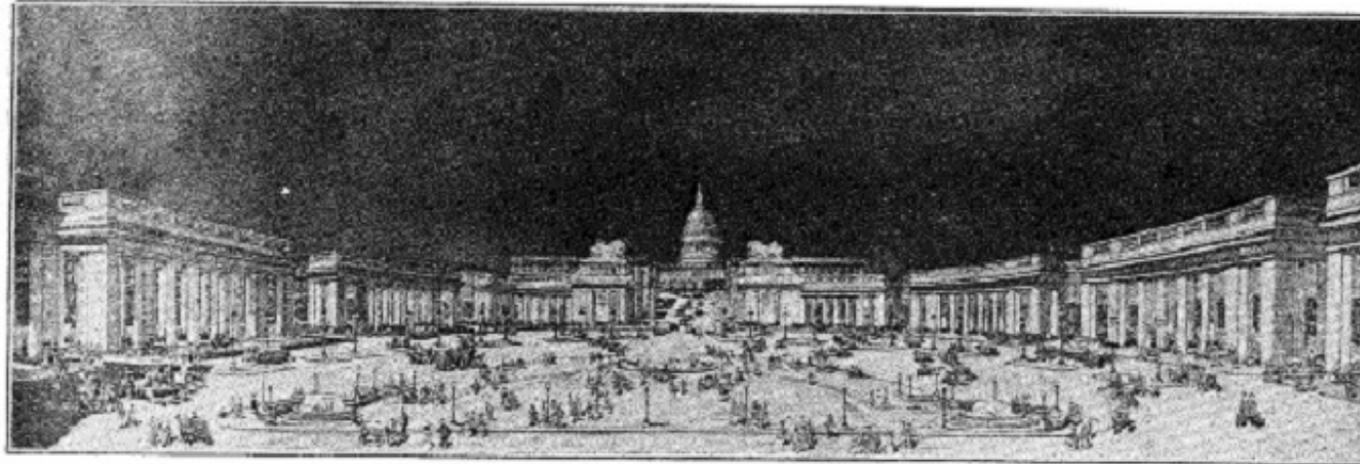
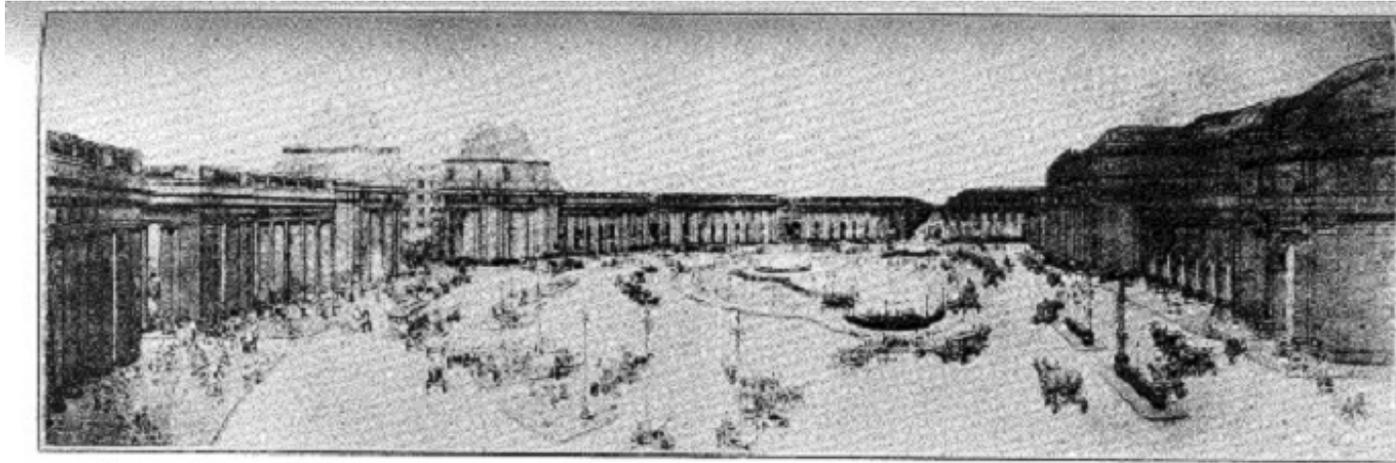
Above the front entrance of Union Station stand six colossal statues entitled "The Progress of Railroading" and they represent the enthusiasm of the American Renaissance movement: Prometheus (for Fire), Thales (for Electricity), Themis (for Freedom and Justice), Apollo (for Imagination and Inspiration), Ceres (for Agriculture) and Archimedes (for Mechanics).



---

*A Piece of History*

Below are images of the originally proposed grand plaza for Union Station, later abandoned because it would interfere with the perspective to the U.S. Capitol.



### *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-use transportation center and a retail/entertainment center while preserving its significant historic character. Today, USRC continues to oversee Union Station as it continues to evolve into a premier world class inter-modal facility meeting the needs of more than 80,000 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

Lisa Oleynik - Program Coordinator    Christine Colello - Executive Assistant

---

To subscribe to The Union Station Dispatch, email [usrc@usrcdc.com](mailto:usrc@usrcdc.com)

---



Union Station Redevelopment Corporation  
10 G Street, NE Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone (202) 222-0271 Fax (202) 222-0280  
[www.usrcdc.com](http://www.usrcdc.com)