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## — WORD FROM THE EDITOR —

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Since January, a lot has been happening at Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) and Union Station. We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting news, events, awards, projects, and staff updates in our Spring 2017 newsletter.

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## — NEWS AND EVENTS —

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### **C-SPAN3 SEGMENT ON THE HISTORY OF UNION STATION**

On April 9, 2017, C-SPAN's American Artifacts program featured a [segment](#) on the History of Union Station. Beverley Swaim-Staley, President and CEO of USRC, gave a tour of the station and provided historical background information. In addition, Architect John Bowie talked about the original construction and recent restoration. If you have not seen it yet, please check it out!

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### **GREATER WASHINGTON BOARD OF TRADE 98TH ANNUAL MID-WINTER DINNER**

On March 29, 2017, the Greater Washington Board of Trade (BOT) held the 98th annual mid-winter dinner in Union Station. BOT took advantage of the various locations and great architecture in the station for this signature black tie event. The evening started out with an appetizer and cocktail reception in the Presidential Suite. This was followed by dinner in the East Hall and dessert in the Main Hall. All attendees enjoyed great food and great company in the beautiful, historic station.

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### **UNION STATION PARKING GARAGE WEBSITE LIVE!**

On April 26th, Union Station Parking Garage (USPG), one of USRC's partners launched a new website. To learn more about the garage and its amenities, the USPG team, and Union Station, please check out the [website](#).

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### **EXCITING PUBLIC EVENTS AT UNION STATION**

Union Station is not just a place where people enter and exit the nation's capital. It is also the home to a variety of wonderful, free, public events.

#### PAST EVENTS

##### Earth Day Celebration...with NASA

On April 20, 2017, the Main Hall of Union Station was host to an amazing event. From 9am to 5pm, there was a free Earth Day event featuring storytelling, hands-on activities, Dynamic Planet, a space suit display, and [Scott "Scooter" Altman](#) (a United States Navy Captain, engineer, test pilot, and former [NASA](#) astronaut) signing autographs!



The emcee for the day was Sean Potter, Public Affairs Officer, Earth and Astrophysics, NASA. To kick the event off, opening remarks were given by:

- Dr. Michael Freilich, Director of Earth Science, NASA,
- William Werkheiser, Acting Director, [U.S. Geological Survey](#), and
- Beverley Swaim-Staley, President and CEO, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation.



The children who took part were very excited to learn about NASA and Earth Day. Kamryn Harrison from Roanoke, VA said "I came because it looked really cool. I learned during an eclipse, the moon blocks the sun, but the moon is smaller than the sun and the earth." A CHEF Homeschooling student, Jalen Green, thought it was interesting that "We can't go above a certain height - 62,000 feet - in an airplane."

Branaya Reese Brown of Suitland, MD commented that she was learning about special NASA cameras. "They can show you the heat of human bodies and the position where the arms and legs are. [The camera] senses where the heat is and puts an image on the screen. It can find someone's location and tell you the temperature of the person's body. I also learned about the countries in the Arctic; their names and their capitals. [The slide] showing how astronauts sleep in space; they look like zombies." Jackson Flowers of Granby, MA (whose family extended their vacation so their children could take part in the Earth Day with NASA event!)

found it interesting that "trillions and trillions of photons evaporate and go down to earth and measure the earth's height."



USRC would like to thank all the NASA, U.S. Geological Survey, and Department of State employees who imparted knowledge to interested children and adults throughout the day. We would also like to extend our thanks to the following:

- the over 1000 people who took part in the event;
- Pizzeria Uno for arranging lunch for students invited by NASA;
- the Special Events at Union Station team for all their hard work before, during, and after the event;
- [City Sights](#) for agreeing to have their kiosk temporarily relocated out of the Main Hall;
- the Bus Deck Facility for arranging parking spots for buses;
- Professional Security Consultants for patrolling the event; and
- Union Station cleaning staff.

#### [Cameristi della Scala Orchestra Performance Honoring Arturo Toscanini](#)

On March 28, 2017, there was a spectacular performance by the [Cameristi della Scala Orchestra](#) of Milan in honor of [Arturo Toscanini](#) in the East Hall of Union Station. The free concert included selections from Bellini's "Capuleti and Montecchi", Verdi's "La Traviata", and Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" and featured a special appearance by soprano Mihaela Marcu.

The performance was attended by approximately 600 people, including representatives of the Italian Embassy, the Italian Cultural Institute, the World Bank, and the U.S. Government, as well as a number of surprised and delighted passengers departing and arriving in the station who just happened upon this world-class musical treat.

[NBC4's Barbara Harrison](#) was the emcee for the evening. Introductory remarks were given by Beverley Swaim-Staley, President and CEO of USRC, and [Pietro Salini](#), CEO of Salini Impregilo Group. [Salini Impregilo S.p.A](#) and [Lane Construction Corporation](#) were the generous sponsors of this performance.

Starbucks in the Main Hall supplied the concert attendees with free Italian Roast coffee. Additionally, New York's Rizzoli Bookstore's "[Toscanini – The Maestro: A Life in Pictures](#)" books were on sale at the concert and were subsequently available for a short time at Hudson News in Union Station.

Many thanks to the Cameristi della Scala Orchestra for a memorable musical evening and to all who came out to support the arts in Union Station.

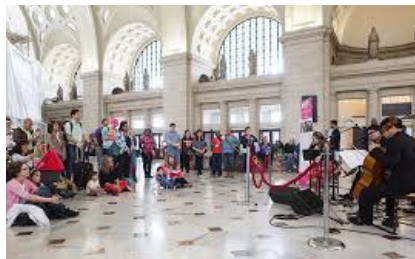


Additional photos are available on USRC's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/usrcdc/posts/1239219392813319>.

### 6821 Quintet Concert

On March 26th, the [6821 Quintet](#) offered a rare musical pop-up performance in the Main Hall at Union Station. The quintet, assembled specifically for the [2017 National Cherry Blossom Festival](#) and named after the distance between Washington, DC and Tokyo, was created by the Ryuji Ueno Foundation as part of the [Potomac Music Lab Project](#).

The group, led by violist [Mayu Kishima](#) (First Prize winner of the [Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition](#) in 2016), is comprised of two violinists, a violist, a cellist, and a pianist.



The quintet premiered pieces specifically composed for the National Cherry Blossom Festival; this year's work was composed by [S&R Foundation Washington Award](#) Winner [Mamiko Hirai](#).

Special thanks to the 6821 Quintet for a fantastic performance and to all who attended the concert.

A YouTube clip of the concert can be seen [here](#).

### School Concerts

In March and April, there were free, public performances in the Main Hall by the following schools:

- Sutherland Middle School Band (Charlottesville, VA)
- Olathe East High School Choir (Olathe, KS)
- Viroqua High School Choir and Band (Viroqua, WI)
- College Park High School Concert Band (Pleasant Hill, CA)
- Rogers High School Orchestra (Rogers, AR)
- Mountain Range High School Band (Westminster, CO)
- McGrath Academy of Irish Dance (Manassas, VA)
- Baldwin High School Orchestra and Dancers (Orlando, FL)

Thanks to all the students who came to the station to perform.

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## — AWARDS AND RECOGNITION —

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### **WBC CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS**

On March 31, 2017, the [Washington Building Congress](#) (WBC) hosted its annual Craftsmanship Awards and Hall of Fame Induction event. It was a great evening during which many of the country's top-notch architects, engineers, and contractors and their projects were celebrated. USRC was presented with a certificate in recognition of the outstanding work in connection with [Finishes](#) – Plaster and [Mechanical](#) – HVAC/Sheet Metal in Union Station.

On top of that, in the Finishes – Plaster category, the restoration and stabilization of Union Station's Main Hall ceiling was honored with the prestigious [Star Award for Excellence in the Face of Adversity](#). Congratulations to the following who were involved in this project:

- Contractor: [Hayles and Howe, Inc.](#)
- Architects: [Gensler](#) and John Bowie Associates
- Engineer: [McMullan & Associates, Inc.](#)
- Construction Manager: [Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc.](#)

A video about the work done on the Main Hall ceiling, featuring Architect John Bowie, can be seen [here](#).

USRC would like to congratulate all involved in the Plaster and HVAC/Sheet Metal projects on their achievements. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!

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— UNION STATION PROJECTS —

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## ROSTRAL COLUMNS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY - A GREAT SUCCESS!

On March 2, 2017, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation hosted the official unveiling of the Rostral Columns at a ribbon cutting ceremony. In spite of the blustery, cold wind, there was a good turnout.

The following people delivered remarks:

- Beverley Swaim-Staley, USRC
- Tom Whitmore, [The Christman Company](#) (Christman)
- Alfonso Narvaez, [Aeon Preservation Services](#) (Aeon)
- Colleen Hawkinson, [District Department of Transportation](#) (DDOT)
- Andrew Lewis, [DC State Historic Preservation Office](#) (DC SHPO)

After the rousing speeches, the red ribbon was cut by:

- Walker Matthews, Aeon
- Greta Wilhelm, Christman
- Doug Harnsberger, Historic Architect
- Alfonso Narvaez, Aeon
- David Overholt, Christman
- Andrew Lewis, DC SHPO
- Beverley Swaim-Staley, USRC
- Colleen Hawkinson, DDOT
- Captain Michael Morrissey, [Amtrak Police Department](#)

(The names are in the order as they appear in the picture below.)



USRC would like to thank everyone who came out for the ceremony and thank all involved in this important project.

Additional photos can be seen on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/usrcdc/posts/1217873954947863>

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— MEET OUR STAFF —

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### KEVIN FORMA, 2ND CENTURY PROGRAM MANAGER



Kevin Forma joined USRC in January as the 2nd Century Program Manager. In his position, Kevin is responsible for the administration, coordination, and implementation of projects in all phases of planning and design that seek to modernize and expand station facilities, while maintaining the transportation and commercial functions of the historic Union Station.

Prior to joining USRC, Kevin worked for the City of New York for 12 years with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Parks and Recreation where he served as Director of Franchises and Concessions, interagency

coordinator, and project manager on a variety of large and small-scale city initiatives. Kevin has a background in urban planning, capital program management, and contract management.

Kevin, his husband Matt, and their two cats live in the Brookland area of DC. Since arriving, Kevin has been enjoying exploring the city and since he is a bit of a foodie, he has been enjoying exploring DC's restaurant scene. During his free time, Kevin enjoys reading, biking, cooking, and spending time in his garden. Originally from Buffalo, Kevin is a fan of the Sabres and the Bills.

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— A PIECE OF HISTORY —

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### FEATURE PHOTO



President Theodore Roosevelt outside Union Station in May 1914

### FEATURE VIDEO

USRC stumbled onto a great video from 1940 entitled "[The Passenger Train](#)" that was filmed at Union Station. We hope you enjoy watching it.

To subscribe to USRC's quarterly newsletter, email [usrc@usrcdc.com](mailto:usrc@usrcdc.com).