



— WORD FROM THE EDITOR —

Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) and Union Station have been quite busy since the fall newsletter was published last November. We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting awards, news, events, and projects in our Winter 2018 newsletter.

— AWARDS AND RECOGNITION —

GRANT FOR RESTORATION OF THE UNION STATION MAIN HALL ROMAN LEGIONNAIRES

USRC is pleased to announce that we received a [DDOT Transportation Alternatives Program](#) grant for the restoration of the Main Hall Roman Legionnaire statues. The grant will allow USRC to continue the momentum of the statuary preservation effort at Union Station after the success of the 2017 West Hall Legionnaires restoration project. We expect that restoration of the Main Hall Roman Legionnaires will commence later this year.



— NEWS AND EVENTS —

ABA ANNUAL MEETING AND MARKETPLACE CHARLOTTE, NC - JANUARY 26 TO 30, 2018

Every January, the [American Bus Association](#) (ABA) welcomes the travel and tour community to the industry's premier business event, the [ABA Annual Meeting and Marketplace](#). With more than 3,500 tour operators, suppliers, and exhibitors in attendance, this annual kickoff and one-stop-shop provides an opportunity to learn about new businesses and continue to grow existing relationships.

Union Station representatives take part in this annual event for business opportunities, as well as to stay abreast of upcoming regulations that will affect the travel and tour industry. This year, Nzinga Bryant, USRC, and LaJuana Jones and Pedro Fonseca, Union Station Parking Garage (USPG), met with hundreds of tour operators and provided information about Union Station, including the transportation options, retail, restaurants, and marketing and parking opportunities with USPG. Additional information regarding the USPG Bus Facility can be found at www.uspgllc.com.

Ms. Jones participated in a new initiative at this year's event - speed networking. She had 57 seven-minute meetings with specific operators to provide information about Union Station. The ABA Annual Meeting and Marketplace provides a great opportunity to showcase historic Washington Union Station and build lasting working relationships. The station team looks forward to next year's event in Louisville, KY.



UNION STATION TOURS

Atlas Obscura Tour Partnership

USRC is delighted to have an ongoing partnership with [Atlas Obscura](#) and the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#). On February 11th, USRC President and CEO Beverley Swaim-Staley and Archivist Sarah Mayersohn led yet another behind-the-scenes tour of Union Station, in collaboration with our great partners. The 30 people, who were taken on the most recent tour, were the third group to participate.

In addition to visiting the West, East, and Main Halls, the participants were taken to areas usually not accessible to the general public, including:

- the Presidential Suite,
- the balcony area to see the Roman Legionnaire statues up close, and
- the H Street Bridge underpass.

The tour participants enjoyed learning about the station and its history. Many thanks to all who helped organize and attended.

Union Station Tours for Professional Tour Guides

On January 22nd and 29th, USRC staff Jillian Hess, Rachel Kohli, and Sarah Mayersohn had the pleasure of giving Union Station tours to members of the [Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC](#). We hope that the information we imparted on the history of the station will be useful to the guides when they bring tour groups to the station in the future. This is the first step in what USRC hopes will be an ongoing relationship with the Guild.

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS AT UNION STATION

On April 11th at 1pm, the [National Symphony Orchestra](#) (NSO) will be giving a free performance in the Main Hall of Union Station. Music Director [Gianandrea Noseda](#) will lead the full NSO in a concert featuring classical works by Bernstein, Beethoven, Brahms, and more. Come one, come all, for what is sure to be a wonderful musical treat.

To find out about this and other upcoming free, public events at Union Station, please check <https://www.usrcdc.com/events/>.

PAST STATION EVENTS

10,000 Small Businesses Market

On February 13th and 14th, Union Station's Main Hall was host to a pop-up

marketplace. 48 small businesses from 13 states across the country, which are participants in the [10,000 Small Businesses Program](#), set up shop and showcased their wares.

The goods on sale included wallets and purses, clothing, an array of sweet and savory foods, beverages, many different types of hot sauces, stationery, jewelry, dishware, soaps, educational games, and books. Commuters, tourists, and station employees liked having a festival-like atmosphere where they could make purchases and sample the various foods available for sale.



American Geosciences Institute Photography Exhibit

The [American Geosciences Institute](#) had its 15th annual nationwide [Earth Science Week photography contest](#) last fall. The theme was "Earth and Human Activity Here" and participants were encouraged to take photos representing how humans, individually and in groups, interact with the planet's natural systems. The 25 winning photos, selected from hundreds of entries, taken by people ages 12 to 57, were on display in the east side of the Main Hall of Union Station from January 16th to 29th.

Christmas at Union Station

On November 29th, Union Station's Main Hall was host to the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Thanks to the generosity of the Norwegian people, Union Station receives a beautiful tree every year. This celebration has been ongoing for 21 years, similar to the [Norwegian Christmas tree lighting in Trafalgar Square in London, England](#), which this year celebrated its 70th anniversary. Adults and children came to listen to the music of Jardar Johansen and the Carolers of Greater Washington; hear comments from Norway's Ambassador to the United States, [His Excellency Kåre R. Aas](#) and Idar G. Voldnes, President of the [Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce](#); see the 32-foot tree lit up; and meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Additionally, the Main Hall was host to the popular, traditional train display. Also, the gigantic wreaths on the south side of the station and other décor made Union Station a festive sight during the holiday season.



Free Concerts and Performances at Union Station

On February 21st, Gardell's Hustlers on the Move, a group of senior motivational performers from Flint, MI, came to the station to promote the [America Let's Exercise Campaign](#). All passersby enjoyed the performance.

During the holiday season, there were two school concerts in Union Station in front of the beautiful Christmas tree. On December 15th, the Clarksburg High School Singers (Clarksburg, MD) gave a performance in the Main Hall. The Thoreau Middle School Orchestra (Vienna, VA) performed in the station on December 14, 2017.

— UNION STATION PROJECTS —

UNION STATION HISTORIC INTERIOR LIGHTING STUDY

USRC received the [Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors Grant](#), a grant awarded by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Through this funding, USRC partnered with [Building Conservation Associates](#) to complete a historic interior lighting study of Union Station, which focuses on the Main Hall, West Hall, East Hall, Presidential Suite, and Retail Concourse. Work began in August 2017 and the final report will be completed and made publicly available in spring 2018. The study will document the history of the station's natural and artificial lighting, providing valuable information for future preservation and station development projects.

UNION STATION TOUR MOBILE APP

Did you know that there is a mobile app for Washington Union Station? USRC recently conducted a comprehensive update to the Union Station Tour app, so if you already have it on your mobile device, please download the latest version. If you were unaware that such an app existed, please go to iTunes or Google Play and search for Union Station Tour. This free app provides information and photos

about the station's history, its existing features, and recent and future expansion and renovation.

The application includes the following features:

- Points of Interest, with historic overviews of the various parts of the station, separated into three stages - Early Years, Mid Century, and Decline and Revitalization;
- A quiz, which encourages visitors to test their knowledge on the history of and interesting facts about Union Station;
- A scavenger hunt that challenges visitors to seek out interesting focal points in and around the station;
- A list of transportation options in the multimodal station;
- A comprehensive timeline of Union Station from 1835 to 2017;
- A map of the station, indicating where the various Points of Interest are located; and
- A photo gallery with images from 1908 to present-day.

USRC hopes everyone enjoys using the app and learning about historic, beautiful Union Station.

Development of the mobile app, which has been available in its previous form since April 2015, was funded in part by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

— A PIECE OF HISTORY —

FEATURE PHOTO



Concourse construction from the north - c. 1906.

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