UNION STATION
REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WORD FROM THE EDITOR

There has been quite a lot going on at Union Station since the Summer 2019 newsletter was sent in August. We hope you enjoy reading about interesting news, events, projects, and a new USRC staff member in our Fall 2019 newsletter.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Union Station and USRC Featured in the News

On October 4, 2019, WUSA9 featured a segment on the Main Hall Roman Legionnaire Statues restoration project. USRC's President and CEO, Beverley Swaim-Staley, was interviewed. You can read about the project and see the video here. Additional information on this restoration effort can be found in the projects section below.

Union Station Parking Garage Bus Deck Pop-Up Library Renewed

The Union Station Parking Garage Bus Deck waiting room will continue to host a digital pop-up library through June 2020. Thanks to this collaborative effort of the DC Public Library (DCPL) and USRC, when you wait for your bus, you can turn on your digital device's Wi-Fi and select Pop Up Library. While on this network, you can see a collection of eBooks (for both adults and children) available for streaming and downloading. We hope you will enjoy using this wonderful resource.

If you are interested in finding more digital content from DCPL, including additional eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music, and more, please visit dclibrary.org/godigital.

Upcoming Events

Berlin Wall Exhibit

From November 6 to 12, 2019, there will be a Berlin Wall exhibit in the Main Hall of Union Station. The display, sponsored by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The exhibit will feature six panels depicting the history of the wall and highlighting the stories of individuals who perished trying to cross it.

Advisory: The content of this display might not be suitable for all ages.

Holiday Season

The most wonderful time of the year will soon be upon us. The decorations at Union Station are always a must-see during the holiday season. The large wreaths will be on the exterior of the station on November 20th and the train display (set in Maine in winter) will be open on November 29th. Many thanks in advance to Mark and Debra Long, who will be setting up the train exhibit for the 31st year in a row. The signature event, the annual Norwegian tree lighting ceremony, taking place for the 23rd time this year, will be on December 3, 2019. Please check the USRC website news page and event calendar for additional details closer to the date.

Past Station Events

DC Public Library goDigital Fair

There was a goDigital campaign fair in the Main Hall of Union Station on September 5, 2019. goDigital is an easy-to-use web portal that exists inside the DC Public Library's main website, which allows users to find everything related to the library's online digital collection in one, user-friendly location.

At this great, free, public event, hosted by DCPL, the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Connect.DC (the District's Digital Inclusion Initiative), and WHUR Radio DJs, organized in collaboration with USRC, people were able to sample music, videos, audiobooks, and more via touchscreen kiosks. Participants could also enjoy a movie screening, have their pictures taken in a photo booth, sign up for library cards, check out books, and win prizes. In addition, those who stopped by were treated to some fantastic live entertainment from Band of Roses, Graciella, the Wong People Lion Dance Group, and Melvin Deal's African Heritage Dancers and Drummers.

Union Station Tours

USRC had the privilege of organizing and leading another History of Union Station tour on October 26, 2019. This tour series will continue in 2019 and beyond, with the next tour taking place on November 23rd (already sold out) and future dates to be determined. Please keep an eye out on USRC's website calendar and social media if you are interested in taking part.

Additionally, USRC led another Atlas Obscura Hidden Union Station tour on August 4th. Also, on October 2, 2019, USRC led a tour of Union Station for staff of the World Bank's Transport Practice Group.

Past Concerts

Recently, there have been some wonderful, free public performances in the Main Hall of Union Station. The Imaoikiruhito (people living in the now) Resonance Harmony Group, comprised of singers from Tokyo, Osaka, Okinawa, and Kanagawa, performed a number of great songs in Japanese on September 12th. In addition, on October 18, 2019, the Salvation Army choir had a fabulous concert.

Are you a member of a small band, orchestra, or choir? Groups of 40 or less can apply to perform for free for up to 30 minutes in Union Station's beautiful Main Hall. Union Station hosts over 37 million visitors annually and is a great performance venue. To obtain further information or submit an application, please contact marketing@unionstationdc.com.

UNION STATION PROJECTS

Main Hall Roman Legionnaire Statues Restoration Project

The restoration of the historic Roman Legionnaire statues located at the balcony level of the Main Hall commenced in mid-August. Installed in 1912, the 36 statues that adorn the Main Hall were part of the original construction of Union Station. They are included in the set of 46 statues designed by Louis Saint-Gaudens, which represents the number of states at the time of the station's opening in 1907.

John Canning & Co. has been hired to clean, repair, and restore the Main Hall statuary, a task that has not been undertaken since the 1980s restoration. USRC anticipates this project being completed by the end of 2019.

This project is partially funded by a Transportation Alternatives Program grant administered by the District Department of Transportation.

H Street Bridge Project

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) hosted an Industry Day meeting on October 10, 2019 at which prospective bidders learned about the status and procurement of the H Street Bridge design/build project. For more details, please see the DDOT project page.

MEET THE USRC TEAM

Cody Zaccagnino joined USRC as a Project Manager in late July. His work involves overseeing capital improvement and historic preservation projects throughout Union Station. Cody is an architecture enthusiast and is happy to have joined a team of like-minded people.

Prior to coming on board at USRC, Cody was a property manager in the District of Columbia, handling residential apartment communities, primarily focused on pre-WWII Art Deco buildings. He holds a B.A. in Engineering from Lafayette College.

In his spare time, Cody enjoys skiing and hiking. He is an avid environmentalist and conservationist. When the weather is uncooperative, Cody spends time reading and listening to music, always trying to discover something new. He is a DC sports fan, though his football allegiance is to the New York Giants, as that is where his roots are.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

Construction of the metro station on the southwest side of Union Station in 1972.
(Photo Courtesy of the George Washington University Special Collections Research Center)

Founded in 1983, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) is a nonprofit organization charged with preserving and restoring Union Station's historic and architectural significance, in addition to maintaining the station's long-term function as a multimodal transportation and commercial center.

Forward

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