



## Union Station Fact Sheet

### HISTORY

**Commissioned:** 1933 as a joint venture of the Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads.

**Opened:** May 1939 with a star studded three-day celebration.

**Construction Cost:** Reported to have cost \$11 million to build.

**Station Ranking:** The largest train terminal in the Western United States.

**Designed By:** Father and son team Donald & John Parkinson (known for their work on Bullocks Wilshire and Los Angeles City Hall).

**Architectural Style:** “Mission Moderne”, a blend of Spanish-colonial, Revival and Streamline Moderne (Art Deco).

**Landscape Architect:** Tommy Tomson (known for his work on the infield of Santa Anita Park and Park La Brea).

**Transportation:** At opening the station serviced 33 trains with an estimated 7000 passengers per day.

**Place in History:** Designated as a Los Angeles Historic–Cultural Monument in 1972 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

### UNION STATION TODAY

Union Station is a bustling 52-acre transportation center in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles serving 75,000 commuters daily.

**Transportation:** With 14 tracks servicing 440 trains (light and heavy rail), the station is the primary regional hub for Amtrak and Metrolink’s five-county commuter train service and serves as a transfer point for Metro’s Red, Purple and Gold Lines.

Linked to the Patsaouras Transit Plaza, Union Station offers essential transit connections to destinations throughout Los Angeles via approximately 1,500 busses per day (Metro Commuter, Mega, Fly Away, Bolt).

**Parking:** 3,000 parking spaces located at Metro Headquarters.

**Metro Acquisition:** In April 2011, Metro completed the acquisition of the Los Angeles Union Station property, including 38 acres and 5.9 million square feet of development rights.

**Master Plan:** In 2015, Metro announced a long range master plan that establishes the framework for transforming Los Angeles Union Station into a world-class transportation facility. <https://www.metro.net/projects/la-union-station/>.

**Next Great Public Space:** In 2016 Union Station has begun its historic transformation into as vibrant destination for art, entertainment and culture.

## **GRAND WAITING ROOM**

**Function:** An extraordinary historic space that serves as a waiting area for Metrolink and Amtrak passengers.

**Size:** 11,200 square feet. 140 feet long. 80 feet wide.

### **Features:**

- Six stunning Art Deco inspired brass chandeliers weighing more than 3,000 pounds apiece.
- Original terracotta floors tiles.
- Intricate 11-foot wide floor runner made from a variety of inlaid stone.
- 286 iconic Art Deco chairs carved from mahogany.
- 3-foot high wainscoting created from stunning geometric tiles created by Gladding McBean and made of Belgium marble and polished travertine.
- Vintage sound dampening acoustic tiles made from ground corncobs.
- Towering 40-foot high windows with their original Venetian blinds.
- Beamed ceiling with hand painted tiles.

### **Dinning:**

- Traxx: Elegant New American cuisine served in a unique setting reminiscent of the glamour of train travel's golden era.

- Traxx Bar: Creative cocktails served in what was once the station's telephone room.
- Coming Soon: Café Crepe.

## **HISTORIC TICKET HALL**

**Function:** Once the main ticketing concourse, the hall now serves as a vibrant event space.

**Size:** 16,800 square feet. 140 feet long. 80 feet Wide.

### **Feature**

- 62-foot high ceilings have created a space large enough to fit a five story building.
- 115-foot long ticket counter made of American Black Walnut and featuring 30 ticket windows.
- Towering 40-foot high windows made of diffused glass.
- 18 brass angels adorn the ironwork around each window.
- Hand painted steel beams and acoustic tiles line the ceiling.
- 15 brass and glass doors open to the stations original staging area.
- More than a thousand hand painted art deco tiles dress the walls.
- Six 10-foot wide chandeliers designed by Phoenix Day drop 10 feet from the ceiling.

## **PASSENGER CONCOURSE**

The Passenger concourse is the operational heart of the station and is home to Amtrak and Metrolink ticketing facilities, car rentals and food venues.

### **Eateries:**

- Starbucks
- Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
- T & Y Bakery
- Wetzel's Pretzels

- Subway Sandwiches

## **UNION STATION EAST**

The modern East end of the station was designed by the firm of McClaren/Vasques to connect Union Station to the Patsaouras Transit Plaza and is home to several extraordinary pieces of Metro art.

### **Features:**

Magnificent 87-foot high etched glass ceiling designed to mimic the geometric patterns found throughout the station.

### **Artwork:**

River Bench: Water representing the LA River trickles onto Chinese artifacts excavated from this site.

Lightstick: 12 vertical light sticks producing varying patterns of light in an array of colors.

A magnificent 80-foot long mural painted by artist Richard Wyatt celebrates diversity and depicts powerful images of Los Angeles settlers.

### **Eateries:**

- Barista Society
- GREEN BOWL 2go
- Coming Soon: Oto Oto

## **THE FRED HARVEY RESTAURANT**

Once a bustling restaurant with a private dining room favored by movie stars traveling through the station, the venue is now a popular spot for art and cultural events and is soon to become an innovative new dining experience from acclaimed restaurateur Cedd Moses.

**Designed by:** Mary Coulter, a Santa Fe Railway architect widely known as the inventor of Southwestern design.

### **Features:**

- 3 massive Moorish-style arches.
- An inlaid cement tile floor designed to replicate a Navajo blanket.
- An immense horse shoe shaped bar seating 30 people.
- Six deco style chandeliers drop from hand painted beamed ceilings.

## **SOUTH PATIO**

Playing to the strengths of the California climate, the south patio was designed as a formal garden through which traveler exit the station.

### **Features:**

- Paved entirely in Spanish brick with a 16 pointed star motif at its center.
- Hedges set in a geometric pattern surrounded by seasonal flower beds.
- Stunning views of the iconic Union Station clock tower.

## **NORTH PATIO**

Designed as a place of quiet contemplation amidst the frenetic energy of the station.

### **Features:**

- Original Art Deco fountain designed by Parkinson and Parkinson in cast concrete and glazed tile.
- A 76 year old historic rubber tree shades the Traxx Restaurant patio.
- An avocado and tangerine orchard.
- Flowering Jacaranda trees.