



## HISTORY

Built in 1939, Los Angeles Union Station is the largest railroad passenger terminal in the Western United States and is widely regarded as “the last of the great train stations.” The Station was commissioned in 1933 as a joint venture between the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroads and was intended to consolidate the three local railroad terminals.

The Station was designed by the father and son architect team of John and Donald Parkinson with an innovative blend of Spanish Colonial, Mission Revival and Art Deco architecture now commonly referred to as Mission Moderne. The stunning facility was completed in 1939 for a reported \$11 million and opened with a lavish, star-studded, three-day celebration attended by a half million Angelenos.

In the eight-plus decades since its opening, Union Station has captured the spirit and soul of Los Angeles and has emerged as a vital portal to the promise of the California dream and a vibrant destination for arts and culture.

The Station was designed as an expression of the California lifestyle with a spacious Ticket Concourse equipped with a 110-foot-long ticket counter made of American black walnut, a vast Waiting Room adorned with towering 30-foot windows, Art Deco-inspired chandeliers, inlaid marble floors and hand-painted geometric tiles. The spaces are adjacent to two expansive shaded patios with towering palm trees and an iconic clock tower looming above the entrance.

Located in the southern area of the Station’s main building, the famous Fred Harvey restaurant with its “Harvey Girls” was a favorite amongst passengers. Designed by famous Santa Fe architect, Mary Coulter—widely regarded as the inventor of ‘southwestern design”—it was the last in a long line of Harvey restaurants across the country.

Within just a few years of opening, Union Station transformed into a bustling 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation with as many as 100 troop trains carrying tens of thousands of servicemen through the terminal every day during World War II.

By the 1950s Americans favored cars and planes to the rails, and there were fewer passengers throughout the station, but it remained a vital part of LA's transportation scene for decades. In 1972 Union Station was designated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

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

Today the Station has evolved into a vibrant transportation center in the heart of Los Angeles serving thousands of passengers daily. It is the primary regional hub for Amtrak and Metrolink's commuter train service and is a transfer point for Metro's Red, Purple and Gold Lines. Linked to the Patsaouras Transit Plaza, it offers essential transit connections to destinations throughout Los Angeles.

Additionally, the Station has been transformed into a lively public space featuring a series of signature events, cutting-edge performances, evocative music, unprecedented art exhibitions and thought-provoking cultural programming that has completely redefined the Union Station experience. Union Station has forged a new direction as a center for culture, innovation and ideas while continuing to embrace its storied past.

A vital gateway to the rebirth of downtown's vibrant arts, entertainment and food scene, the station is a portal to important cultural venues including The Broad, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Music Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

With a nod to the past and an eye on the future, Union Station is one of Los Angeles' premiere destinations.