



FACT SHEET

UNION STATION PAST

Commissioned: In 1933 as a joint venture between Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroads.

Grand Opening: In 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.

Architecture: Designed by father and son team Donald and John Parkinson (known for work on Bullocks Wilshire and Los Angeles City Hall).

Architectural Style: An innovative blend of Spanish Colonial, Mission Revival and Art Deco architecture now commonly referred to as Mission Moderne.

Landscape Architecture: Designed by Tommy Tomson, known for his work on the infield of Santa Anita Park and Park La Brea.

Transportation: At opening, the Station serviced sixty-six trains (thirty-three arrivals and thirty-three departures) with an estimated 7,000 passengers per day.

Designations: Honored as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument No. 101 in 1972 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources in 1980.

UNION STATION PRESENT

Union Station is a bustling 52-acre transportation center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles and a vibrant destination for art, entertainment and culture.

Transportation: With 14 tracks for heavy rail and an additional four tracks for light rail servicing more than five hundred trains, 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 lines. Linked to the Patsaouras Transit Plaza, Union Station offers essential connections to destinations throughout Los Angeles via thousands of trains and buses per day (including Metro Commuter and Fly Away).

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

Historic Restoration: Ongoing since 2014 with key restoration work completed in highly significant spaces such as the Entry Vestibule, Ticket Concourse, Waiting Room, and Fred Harvey.

Oscars Debut: In 2021, the 93rd Oscars were held at Union Station taking place in the North and South Patios, Waiting Room and Ticket Concourse, location of the Academy Awards ceremony.

TICKET CONCOURSE

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

Size: 11,619 square feet; 145-feet long; 80-feet wide

Features

- Roughly 61-foot-high ceilings have created a space large enough to fit a five-story building.
- Ceiling of decoratively stenciled and hand-painted acoustic tiles.
- Steel truss structure, covered in plaster and painted to emulate wood, below the ceiling.
- Six 10-foot-wide chandeliers designed by Phoenix Day Co. drop ten feet from the ceiling.
- Sound-dampening acoustic tiles made from stone aggregate that was molded and kiln dried.
- 3-foot-high wainscot composed of geometric tiles created by Gladding McBean.
- 43-foot-high windows made of amber cathedral glass.
- 15 glazed bronze doors open to the original drop-off area.
- 110-foot-long ticket counter made of American black walnut, featuring thirty ticket windows.

WAITING ROOM

Function: An extraordinary space that serves as a waiting area for passengers.

Size: 11,113 square feet; approximately 140-feet long; 80-feet wide.

Features

- Beamed ceiling with decoratively stenciled and hand-painted acoustic tiles.
- Six stunning Art Deco-inspired bronze chandeliers each weighing more than 3,000 pounds.
- Sound-dampening acoustic tiles made of expanded stone aggregate molded and kiln dried.
- 3-foot-high wainscot with geometric tiles created by Gladding McBean and caramel-colored travertine.
- Nearly 30-foot-high windows.
- Original red quarry tile floors, marble trim and an intricate 11-foot-wide, multi-color runner.
- 254 iconic Art Deco-inspired wood chairs.

Eateries: Traxx Restaurant & Bar: Quality food and service presented in a glamorous, art deco atmosphere – while also serving light beer, local IPAs, wine and craft cocktails.

Amenities: Kiosks for gifts and goods from local merchants and artisans.

NORTH PATIO

Function: Designed as a place of quiet contemplation amidst the frenetic energy of the Station.

Features

- Flagstone paving delineating two panels of lawn and bisected by a central brick path.
- Cast concrete and polychromatic wall fountain with a basin in the shape of a half quatrefoil.
- Built-in tile benches along the south wall of the patio.
- Jacaranda trees originally specified by renowned landscape architect Tommy Tomson.

SOUTH PATIO

Function: This patio serves as a formal garden through which travelers enter and exit the Station.

Features

- Red brick paving with a 16-point star motif at its center, surrounded by Art Deco light fixtures.
- Hedge-lined parterres, each of which contains a pepper tree and low ground plantings as originally specified by renowned landscape architect Tommy Tomson.
- Views of the iconic Union Station clock tower.

FRED HARVEY

Design: Mary Coulter, a Santa Fe Railway architect known as the inventor of Southwestern design.

Features

- Eight Art Deco chandeliers drop from acoustic ceilings with blue and tan diamond patterns.
- Three massive slightly pointed arches that divide the main dining room into four bays.
- Inlaid cement tile floor designed to replicate a Navajo blanket.
- Original built-in raised dining booths at the northeast and northwest corners.
- Cocktail lounge featuring an original cooper-clad bar and semi-circular dining booths.

PASSENGER CONCOURSE

Function: Home to Amtrak and Metrolink ticketing facilities, car rentals and food venues.

Eateries: Cilantro Fresh Mexican Grill, Robeks Fresh Juices & Smoothies, Starbucks, Subway, Trimana, Wetzel's Pretzels

Amenities: Shoeshine by Marco, classic shoeshine station.

NORTH ARCADE

Metro Bike Hub: 24/7 secure bike parking spaces with controlled access for registered users.

UNION STATION EAST

Modern east end of the Station designed by the firm McClaren/Vasques to connect Union Station to the Patsaouras Transit Plaza and is home to several extraordinary pieces of Metro Art.

Features: 87-foot-high etched glass ceiling designed to mimic patterns found in the Station.

Eateries: Starbucks Pick Up, Wetzel's Pretzels Cart

Artwork

"River Bench" by artist May Sun: Water representing the LA River trickles onto Chinese artifacts excavated from this site.

"A Train" by artist Bill Bell: Interactive artwork featuring twelve pulsing light rods that produce more than three hundred fleeting images designed to be viewed in periphery by passersby.

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