Happy 65th Birthday Travel Town!

WE MADE IT! The new Travel Town Gift Shop is OPEN! Yes indeed, after literally a decade of planning, fundraising, permitting, dirt-compacting, building, landscaping and more permitting and fundraising… we finally did it! The Foundation’s beautiful new museum store is now welcoming Travel Town visitors on a daily basis. I was excited to see many of you at our big Grand Opening celebration on October 12th and so many more at Depot Day on the following Sunday! We were so very excited to welcome City Councilmember David Ruh and Recreation & Park Commission President Silva Patsaourus to join with in the opening day festivities. There are many individuals and groups that we want to thank for their generous and patient support of this long-awaited project – we’ll create our accolades page as an addendum of this Tender. Folks, if you have not yet visited the new store, please come by and experience the spacious interior and our wide selection of train-related toys, gifts, books and souvenirs – we’re really proud of the great work our Foundation Staff and volunteers have done in furnishing and decorating the store inside and out. Among the great new enhancements are an operating O-Scale model train display, new product lines, a wider array of books, ice cream novelties, old-fashioned bottled soda pop and a selection of dining car china in the Mimbreño pattern from the world-famous Santa Fe Super Chief.

Hey, we’re not stopping there…. Now that we have the new museum store open, we’ll keep the momentum moving onto several other Travel Town projects! Two great museum enhancements are coming up fast: the renovation and conversion of the old gift shop building into a Volunteer Center and a very cool “Tracks to Learning” project – with grant funding through Let’s Play Everywhere LA, a competition led by Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, KABOOM! and the City of Los Angeles Mayor’s Office. Watch your e-mail for the announcement of these new projects.

Tempus Fugit

GREG GNEIER
President
Tis the Season for Giving!

As the end of the year approaches, we hope you will remember the Travel Town Museum Foundation on Giving Tuesday and for your Holiday Season Gift Giving! All donations are deductible, an important consideration when the next season rolls around – TAX SEASON! Remember the museum your kid loves to visit and be fiscally responsible at the same time. Donations are easy to make, just click the “DONATE” button on our website, or the button right here next to this paragraph which will take you to our donation page.

We have GREAT NEW gifts for your favorite engineer, young or old! Have you seen our new brand of Wooden Trains, BIGJIGS, and all the cool playsets it offers? There are Holiday Trains, Pirate Trains, Dinosaur Trains, and even Pink Fairy Trains! All these sets are compatible with other wooden railway systems, too, so you can add to your Thomas and Brio collections or start a totally new one!

Puzzled for presents for the adult train fan in your family? Why not get her a PUZZLE?! We have a great new line of puzzles from Suns Out, Inc. – Train related puzzles that are made right here in the USA!

Fun train related clothing for adults are now in too, including super comfy pajama pants (with pockets!) and casual, yet dressy collared shirts with train-themed fabric. Nice enough to wear on a date, and a great conversation starter.

And of course, for the true soda connoisseur, our gift shop is selling our popular Reading Brand sodas at a discount BY THE CASE! Save up to 20% per bottle when you buy 12 of your favorites – Black Cherry, Root or Ginger Beer, Sarsaparilla, Vanilla or Orange Cream Soda, or Blueberry Birch!
Travel Town Brings Kids Zone to Los Angeles Union Station

The Travel Town Museum Foundation volunteers were happy to participate in the Summer Train Fest on July 15th at Los Angeles’ famous Union Station. We brought our playday equipment and set up some great Thomas play sets, had facepainting and coloring, and handed out lots of fun engineer hats to all the kids who visited our Kids Zone! Our very own Mr. Conductor, Mr. Craig Smith, was happy to punch tickets and pose for photos with the kids, and Brad Slosar brought our restored Railway Express Agency Truck that was parked next to the Santa Fe’s 3751 Steam Locomotive. We even had local Boy Scouts from Troop 210 earn some service hours by reading books to the kids while they played.
Pictured here is Dee Metzger with her son, Paul Marinos, donors of our beautiful Union Pacific clock in the new gift shop. The dedication ceremony for the clock was held on Depot Day.

Please enjoy these other photos of the great happenings at Depot Day! Become a member and receive special prizes when you attend, and know that your business can sponsor Depot Day 2018! Please contact Nancy at the Foundation office for Sponsorship opportunities – great advertising for your business, and a great way to help continue this great public event at Travel Town!
2017 Presidential Service Awards given to our Great Volunteers!

**Extraordinary Teens 11-15! BRONZE Level**
Omer Abdelrahim

**Extraordinary Teens 11-15! SILVER Level**
Jessica Tolbert

**Extraordinary Teens 11-15! GOLD Level**
Alex Kadzhabashian

**Fantastic Young Adults 16-25! BRONZE Level**
Will Cosso
Bryan Herrera
Kaelen Porter
Robert Ramos

**Amazing Adults 26+! BRONZE Level**
Bill Cosso
Nancy Gneier
Ken Hansen
Greg Ramsey
Yvonne Ramsey
Bryan Reese
Brad Slosar
Gary Teti
Michael Teti

**Amazing Adults 26+! SILVER Level**
Greg Gneier
Fredrick Vincent
Travel Town awarded funds for the “Tracks to Learning” Project!

Dr Pepper Snapple Group, KaBOOM! and the City of Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Award the Travel Town Museum Foundation With Grant to Create Unique Play Opportunities in Everyday Spaces

One of 10 Let’s Play Everywhere L.A. selected grantees to receive funding in L.A. County

We are going to paint several brightly colored "tracks and switches" layouts of various sizes so that our visiting guests can pretend to be engines and trains! This will include a smaller track set for kids to sit down and play with hand-held toys that are available at our gift shop, and two larger sets, one in front of the new volunteer center and the other in front of the trolley car near the picnic areas.

These painted tracks, while just being fun for visitors to chug around on and "imagineer", will also be used by our docents to educate our younger visitors about track safety, switching, and signaling for trains. The best way for preschoolers to learn is through active play, and the different sized tracks will allow quiet play with toys or rambunctious activity with friends - depending on our visitors’ moods. These "Tracks to Learning" will allow us to explain how trains are put together, the physics with moving heavy loads, and other STEM/railroad related topics to older Elementary and Junior High students. They will also "define" waiting areas for school groups visiting the Museum while they wait for their tours, so they will be a great addition to our museum!

The Tracks to Learning Project is making play more accessible for the kids of Los Angeles. Play is critical to the physical, cognitive, creative, social, and emotional development of all kids, yet far too many are missing out on the chance to play, especially kids living in underserved communities. There are significant barriers to play, beginning with a lack of play-spaces at home, at school, and in communities.

“We’re thrilled with the creativity the grant winners have brought to these projects,” said Vicki Draughn, vice president – corporate affairs for Dr Pepper Snapple. “A place to play can be so many more places than we ever imagined and we can’t wait to see these ideas come to life.”

Let's Play Everywhere LA helps to address the barriers to play. This is the first city-wide initiative to award out-of-the-box solutions to make play a way of life in everyday and unexpected places – on sidewalks, in vacant lots, at bus stops, in open streets and beyond – especially in communities where families struggle to make ends meet. Travel Town is thrilled to be part of this great initiative!

Draft diagram of where the “Tracks” (in blue) will be placed in our Volunteer Center Plaza.
New and Renewing Members

Restoration Partners
Sara Bolokofsky
Ian Fagan
Stephen & Hope Heaney

"LITTLE NUGGET" Club Memberships
Marianne Leo-Burton
Fred Glienna
Don & Peggy Gustavson

Streamliner Memberships
Lynne Gerred
Mieko Mayeno
Michael Novean
Lianne Oxley
Kyle Sterling
Julio Matta

Track Gang Memberships
Maria Barboza
Katharina Becker
Hanna Benfield
Adrian Castillo
Elsa Finn
Tiffara Flores
Shirley Fortuna
Jasmin Hernandez

Mary Hou
Marlo Houser
Natalie Hubbard
Jestin River
Joanne Kong
Alexis Logsdon
Gayane Lulejian
Graciela Macias
Varduhi Mirijanyan
Kian Montague
Ron Nelson
Shaki Noriega
Frank Osorio
Barbara Pantleo
Rebecca Pasternak
Jennifer Pierce
Haydee Ramos
Stephanie Roache
Chris Rubin
Brittni Sanderson
Jessica Sinisgalli
Michael Tirella
Lesnin Toledo
Elio Velez
Cristobal Ventura
Andrew S. Warner
Karla Williams

Junior Engineer memberships
Alice Gimpirea
Michel Ingham
Carlos Jimenez
Robert & Jessica Martinez
Marcos Montenegro
Michael Ng
Lia Owens
Brenda Perez
Jones Ramos
Alessandro Rivera
Hannah Schumacker
Lani Shipman
Matthew Sternhell
Matthew Thompson
Tamra Wallerstein

Adult Engineers
Todd Brown
Jonathan Hathaway
Elliot Hetkin
Heather Timberlake
Silviya Tsvetanova

Do you need to renew your membership? You can do it online!
Click here for more information!

Buy Groceries and Restore Trains… at the SAME TIME!

Did you know you can link your Ralph’s Club Card with our foundation?
That’s right! It takes only a moment and it plays a big part in our fundraising!

It’s simple! – First, register your Club Card on www.ralphs.com. Then sign in and click on [Your Name] in the top right corner. Click the “Community Rewards - Enroll” link. Next simply fill in the required information: the Travel Town NPO is 81111. Be sure to click the circle next to Travel Town to select it and click “enroll”. It’s that easy! Now every time you make a purchase at Ralph’s, they’ll make a donation to Travel Town!

And if you’re an Amazon shopper, please click the Amazon.smile link found on our website.

All these little things can truly add up to a lot of extra donations!