

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**All Aboard for the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day!
Tampa Union Station to Host Celebration of Railroading May 12**

Tampa (FL), April 12, 2012—Friends of Tampa Union Station is announcing that Historic Tampa Union Station will be the site of events for the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day, Saturday, May 12.

The Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day celebration runs from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission is free.

The preliminary schedule for National Train Day in Tampa features:

- **Railroad equipment displays!** Amtrak equipment open for tours
- **Operating model trains!** From the Suncoast Model Railroad Club, H.B. Plant Model Railroad Historical Society, and more
- **Live Music!**
- **Food Trucks!**
- **History and railroading exhibits!** Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library/Burgert Brothers Photograph Collection, Operation Lifesaver, the Tampa Bay History Center, the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers, Atlantic Coast Line & Seaboard Air Line Railroads Historical Society, National Association of Railroad Passengers, City of Tampa Historic Preservation and Urban Design, Tampa Preservation, Inc., Florida historical groups, Friends of Tampa Union Station, and others (partial list of exhibitors)

At 11 AM at the event, Tampa Union Station will be added to the National Register of Historic Railroad Structures by the National Railway Historical Society in honor of the station's 100th Anniversary and its contributions to railroading over the years. The Tampa Bay History Center's Curator of History, Rodney Kite-Powell, will speak on the history of railroads in Tampa as part of this special program.

Tampa Union Station, constructed as a joint project of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Seaboard Air Line Railway, and the Tampa Northern Northern Railroad, opened to the public on May 15, 1912. Some of Tampa's prominent citizens of the time, such as Col. Peter O. Knight, pushed for the opening of the new station, which was originally constructed for a cost of \$250,000. It was restored in 1998 after many years of neglect.

More information on the history of Tampa Union Station, as well as the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day celebration can be found on the Friends of Tampa Union Station website www.tampaunionstation.com and the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers website: www.fcrprail.org.

Due to construction in the Crosstown Union Lot, parking on the Tampa Union Station grounds is extremely limited. The best option for hassle-free parking is the paid parking in the City of Tampa's convenient Twiggs Street Garage, a short walk from the station (1-1/2 blocks). Handicapped parking is available at the station.

Friends of Tampa Union Station is an all-volunteer organization which advocates for the preservation of historic Tampa Union Station as both a landmark and transportation asset. The organization was founded in 2008 by a group of citizens eager to preserve Tampa Union Station's colorful past and to assure its future.

Friends of Tampa Union Station has established a permanent endowment fund for the ongoing restoration of Tampa Union Station at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and raises funds for it through an engraved brick program and other initiatives, helping to ensure that Historic Tampa Union Station is preserved for future generations to use and enjoy.

Sponsors of the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day include Bright House Networks, Amtrak, CSX, Jacobs Engineering, NorthStar Bank, Stahl Consulting Group, Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Swope Rodante P.A., and Tyrone Frame & Mirror.

More information on National Train Day can be found at www.nationaltrainday.com.



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