

HISTORY

The Union Passenger Station, also known as the Union Depot, was built in 1905. It was designed by the noted Chicago architectural firm of Daniel H. Burnham, who also designed the elaborate Union Station in Washington, D.C.

Raised by Bucannon Powers, General Contractors, the passenger station is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is recognized by the Texas Historical Commission. El Paso's Union Depot supported the establishment of trade between the United States and Mexico as the first International Train Station in the United States. Six railroads operated out of El Paso - five from the United States and one from Mexico.

It was built in a neo-classical style in red brick. Its most outstanding feature was a bell tower with a spire standing six stories high on the building's northeast corner. The cost of the new train station was approximately \$260,000.

On February 6, 1906 the ribbon cutting ceremony was celebrated with nearly 10,000 guests passing through the doors to inspect the marvel. The Depot officially opened for business on March 1, 1906, welcoming 22 trains daily during its first year of operation. The vast open lobby was always filled with passengers and crews.

The area that now houses the Sun Metro Administrative and Operations offices was once the Harvey House, a fine restaurant catering to travelers and El Pasoans alike. Across the street from the Depot where a parking lot sits today, hotels accommodated travelers and crews. The Depot bell tower has its own spot in El Paso folklore; it is said to have provided a lookout for Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution.

Work to restore the building to its turn of the century beauty began in 1980. The tile used for the lobby floor is all original tiles, as is most of the brick throughout the building. The original marble for the columns located inside the depot had been imported from Italy. Much of it was damaged and needed to be replaced. The replacement marble was also imported from Italy after an extensive process to match the original color as closely as possible.



Historic Union Depot



est. 1906

RENT
EL PASO'S



HISTORIC
UNION DEPOT

RENTING

Built in the early 1900s, the rotunda of the historic Union Depot is available for lease by the public for public and private events.

Private citizens and businesses may rent the rotunda for non-commercial and nonprofit events. The rotunda may not be used to solicit customers, campaign contributions, political fundraisers, press conferences or any activity promoting commercial enterprise. Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, Quinceañeras and similar celebrations are permitted.

All rentals are subject to the availability of the Union Depot and must not interfere with the Amtrak and Mass Transit Department's primary transit purposes.

RESERVING THE UNION DEPOT

Call Sun Metro for reservations at (915)534-5810. Events must be booked at least 60 days in advance. Reservations are NOT taken during the period between Memorial Day (last weekend in May) and Labor Day (first weekend in September); no exceptions.

THE COSTS

All rental fees and policies are subject to change without prior notice. All rental fees are due no later than 30 days prior to the event.

- Rental fee: \$150 an hour (minimum of 4 hour required)
- Security fee: \$40 per hour for 2 officers
- Clean-up fee: \$150 for service provided during and after the event
- Liability insurance fee: \$100 per event (events that continue for multiple days, the fee will be assessed per performance/activity.)
- Renters may obtain insurance individually and provide proof of coverage. Contact Sun Metro for required limits of liability.

THE DETAILS

- The capacity of the Union Depot is 350 persons seated at tables. Theatre seating accommodates a larger audience; however, capacity will be dependent on the layout.
- The City of El Paso/Sun Metro does NOT provide any tables or chairs for any event.
- Renters are responsible for all food service, deliveries and equipment rentals. Sun Metro does not provide catering services.
- Parking is available in designated areas around the Union Depot, on the public street and in public parking lots around the general area. Please note that public parking lots may charge a nominal fee.
- Sun Metro will work to accommodate special electrical needs upon request at time of contract signing.



For more photos of
the historic Union Depot visit
sunmetro.net/rental



RESTRICTIONS

- NO nails or tape may be used on walls, pillars or marble. NO wire, tape or nails may be used on the banisters.
- The courtyard and second floor are NOT available for rental.
- Alcoholic beverages may be served, but CANNOT be sold on the Union Depot premises.
- NO glass containers are allowed for beverage or food consumption.
- NO fees or fundraising activities are allowed on the premises; with exception to those events benefiting charitable or nonprofit organizations.
- Smoking is NOT allowed inside the Union Depot. Smoking is only permitted outside of the building.
- The benches located in the Union Depot for Amtrak passengers are NOT to be moved. NO furniture or other objects are to be dragged across the floor. Only items with casters can be rolled across the floor.

TO RESERVE

All interested parties must provide the following information in writing:

- Type of organization;
- Organization status: community-based, nonprofit, charitable, private citizen or business;
- Date and time desired, to include time for decoration set-up and take-down
- Approximate number of guests (capacity 350 seated; theatre style);
- Type of activity (dance, dinner, art show, etc.);
- Contact person, phone number, and email.

RENTER'S CHECKLIST

- Sign a rental contract including waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement 60 days before event
- Full payment due at time of contract signing, or at least 30 days prior to the date of the event.

