

STATE OF THE GJ UNION DEPOT

EDITION #5

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF GJ UNION DEPOT

SPRING 2026

Celebrating milestones and looking ahead!

We are grateful for a successful fall and winter, highlighted by the inaugural Westbound Art by Train event, Thunderbird Yoga, and our second AmeriCorps team, along with multiple grant awards.

We invite you to learn more and join us at our upcoming events. ●

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Friends of GJ Union Depot
PO Box 71 • Grand Junction, CO 81502
friendsofgjuniondepot.org

**SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
11 AM - 3 PM**



GJ UNION DEPOT - 119 PITKIN AVE

**JOIN THE PARTY ON NATIONAL
TRAIN DAY: CELEBRATING 250,
150, AND 120 YEARS!**

**Get ready for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration!
2026 is bursting with historic milestones:**

America's 250th birthday, Colorado's 150th year of statehood, and GJ Union Depot's 120th anniversary since opening on April 17, 1906.

**We're combining these epic moments into
one grand event on Saturday, May 9th—
the Rods and Rails classic car show
celebration!**

Bring your family and friends to honor our nation's founding, the spirit of Colorado, the legacy of GJ Union Depot, and classic cars.

Free Admission - All Ages!

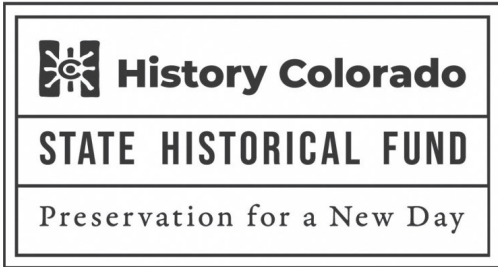


Colorado State Historic Fund Grant Awarded to GJ Union Depot

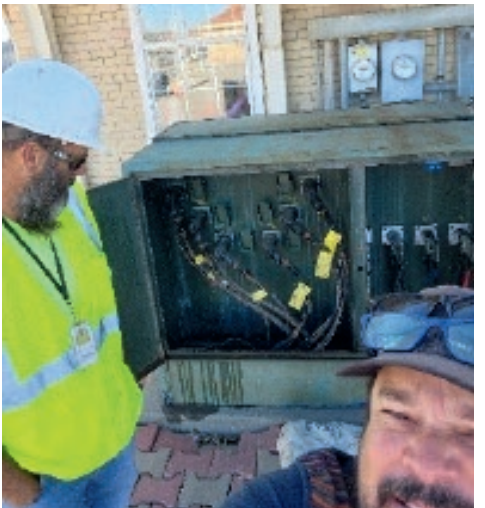
On December 15th, 2025, History Colorado announced the recipients of their bi-annual grants. GJ Union Depot was selected as a recipient and awarded a general grant in the amount of \$250,000 through the Colorado State Historic Fund. As a requirement of this grant, a 1:1 matching contribution is necessary, and the Grand Junction Downtown Development Authority has committed to providing the matching funds of \$250,000 for the project!

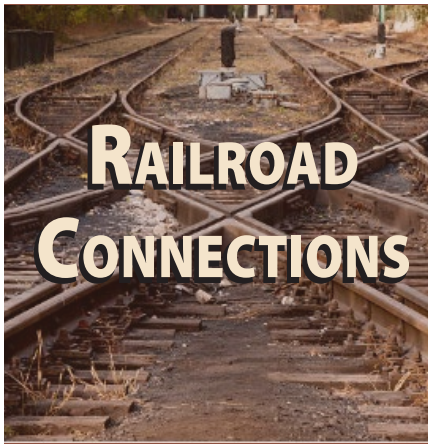
The grant application outlines a comprehensive scope of work focused on significant improvements to GJ Union Depot. Key elements include the installation of a new roof and the implementation of utility upgrades. While a portion of the roof was replaced in 1997 by a previous Friends of the Depot group, the current project will address the entire roof. The work will involve removing the existing roofing materials, repairing the decking as needed, installing a synthetic underlayment, and adding new gutters, flashing, and battens.

The comprehensive replacement and restoration work planned through this project is designed to ensure that the new roof will protect and preserve the depot for the next century. ●



Xcel team assessing new utility boxes needed for the project.





We are proud to uncover and share the rich history of our community's connection with the railroad and GJ Union Depot.

These stories inspire and educate us, strengthening our commitment to restoring GJ Union Depot. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their stories, memorabilia, and more!

If you have a story related to the railroad or GJ Union Depot, please reach out to us at friends@friendsofgjuniondepot.org or share it with us at our next community event.

Honoring a Lifelong Passion for Colorado Railroads

In October 2025, we were approached by Dan Price, a retired railroad worker and dedicated collector. Dan spent 29 years with the Denver & Rio Grande Western, Rio Grande, and Southern Pacific railroads, retiring in the 1990s.

Over the past five decades, Dan and his wife, Evelyn, have passionately collected Colorado Railroadiana, visiting auctions, estate sales, and antique shops statewide in search of unique railroad treasures.

After the passing of his wife and facing his own cancer diagnosis, Dan made the heartfelt decision to entrust their extensive collection to a new caretaker.

We are deeply honored that Dan chose us to receive this generous gift, a testament to the Prices' lifelong devotion to Colorado's railroading history.

The breadth of the Price collection clearly reflects Dan and Evelyn's enduring admiration for the trains that once traversed Colorado—particularly the Uintah Railway, Denver & Rio Grande, Denver & Rio Grande Western, Colorado Midland, and Rio Grande Southern.

Once the restoration of the depot is complete, these remarkable items will be displayed throughout the facility for all to appreciate.

Sadly, Dan passed away on January 11, 2026. We are grateful to have known him and are committed to preserving and sharing the legacy he and Evelyn so passionately built, ensuring their love for Colorado's railroad heritage endures for generations to come.

Thank you to Dan's nieces Shawntel Wells and Kristine Hill for their generosity and assistance with the transfer of the collection. ●



Denver & Rio Grande & Rio Grande Western map.



Railroad items donated by Dan Price.

Generous Donation of Railroad Collectible



In November, the Friends received a remarkable donation thanks to the generosity of Marie Avelsgaard and her son, Jeff. The donation of a Master Clock from the Crookston, MN Depot - a significant piece of railroad history.

The Model 41 Master Clock was made by the Self Winding Clock Company (SWCC), founded in 1886 and known for its work with the Canadian Pacific Railway and Western Union Telegraph. This master clock ensured precise railroad timekeeping by receiving a daily telegraph signal from the U.S. Naval Observatory to maintain accuracy. These high-precision pendulum clocks received a daily

electrical pulse, typically around noon, to correct any deviation from standard time.

Standardizing time across all train schedules, station clocks, and employee watches was crucial for operational safety, helping prevent accidents caused by timing inconsistencies. This particular Master Clock was equipped with relays, allowing it to synchronize additional clocks located at the town hall and other municipal buildings.

The Friends thank the Avelsgaard family for helping preserve this important piece of railroad history. ●

Model 41 Master Clock.

Celebrating the Gibbs Legacy

In January 2026, Diann Admire, a longtime resident of Grand Junction, generously contributed both historical memorabilia and financial support to our organization. She presented us with family photographs that depict her grandparents preparing to depart the depot in 1911. These images were discovered in a family photo album and provide a unique glimpse into the area's rail history.

Along with these photographs, Diann also shared a significant artifact: a front page article from the Daily Sentinel published in 1917. This article reported the tragic death of her grandfather, Charles Gibbs, who served as an engineer for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. He lost his life in a train accident outside of Debeque at the age of 44.

In addition to her memorabilia donation, Diann made a generous financial contribution by sponsoring a window. She dedicated this window sponsorship to her grandparents, Charles and Mamie Gibbs, honoring their legacy and connection to the local rail community. ●



Charles & Mamie Gibbs trackside at GJ Union Depot.

Bringing Historic Windows Back to Life: *Restoration in Action*

The window restoration project has officially entered its next phase. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the 2024 and 2025 AmeriCorps teams, hundreds of hours were spent meticulously stripping layers of paint from the historic window frames and sashes, preparing them for their revival.

Building on this strong foundation, the team has now started the re-installation process. The initial set of window sashes have been expertly tightened, primed, and carefully reinstalled in their frames, marking an important milestone for the project and the depot's preservation.

Completion of this first restored window will set the standard for future work, serving as a model for both the quality and pace of subsequent restorations. This systematic approach ensures that each window receives the same level of care and attention to detail.

This window holds particular significance, as it is sponsored by the Territorial Daughters

of Colorado—the first organization to sponsor a window at the depot. Their support highlights the community's commitment to preserving local history. Leading the restoration initiative is Jamin Wright, owner and operator of Black Ridge Woodworks, whose expertise is central not only to the window restoration but also to the repair of benches, doors, and the future reconstruction of the original lobby staircase.

As we celebrate these milestones, we invite you to become part of this historic revival. There are still windows available for sponsorship—each one an opportunity to honor your family, commemorate a loved one, or leave a lasting legacy in our community's story.

By sponsoring a window, you help illuminate the depot's future and inspire generations to come. Join us in making history, and let your name be woven into the fabric of this remarkable preservation effort. To sponsor a window, please email:

Friends@friendsofgjuniondepot.org ●



Annual meeting of the Territorial Daughters of Colorado June 2025



Community Connection Through Art, Transportation and Collaboration

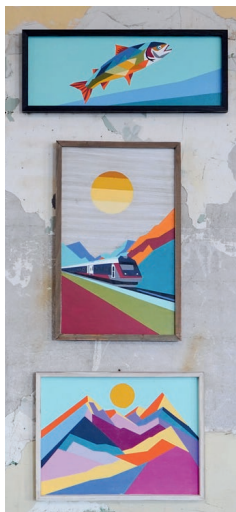
On October 3, 2025, the Depot opened its doors to host a first-of-its-kind event: **Westbound Art by Train**. This unique gathering was the result of creative collaboration between David Goe and Emily King, and was made possible by the support of Colorado Creative Industries, the Downtown Development Authority, Amtrak, and the Denver Public Library.

The exhibition brought together six regional artists who traveled on the California Zephyr, creating their artwork on board and later displaying their pieces at GJ Union Depot. In addition to the featured regional artists, the event also showcased the talent of seven local artists.

Participating Artists

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Kaitlyn Tucek | Nan Wright | Gabriela Mejia |
| Cordero Marez | Erin Butler | Collin Sanders |
| Lance Williams | Adam Cross | Emily Adamson |
| Monica Esposito | Mae Pina | Ashley Peterson |
| Evan Curtis | | |

Special thanks to: Ashley Peterson for organizing a painting activity for kids, 505 Food Truck, Carlson Vineyards and music by John Rizzo. ●



AmeriCorps NCCC Volunteers Drive Progress in Union Depot's Restoration

On October 3, 2025, our second group of AmeriCorps volunteers arrived in Grand Junction to take on an important project at the depot. This team of 10 dedicated volunteers committed six weeks to challenging demolition and clean-up work. Their efforts delivered impressive results, significantly moving us closer to achieving our goals.



AmeriCorps volunteers

Demolition and clean-up are crucial yet often monotonous stages of our project. Still, the AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers approached these tasks with remarkable determination and energy.



Keith Williams, volunteer

Our sponsorship of AmeriCorps NCCC is made possible through the dedicated leadership of our volunteer team. Keith Williams, Scott Kepner, and Dr. Peter LaVon provided daily on-site supervision, ensuring operations ran smoothly. Dave Grossman organized the speakers bureau and led all off-site expeditions. Kokopelli Farm generously donated housing for the team once again, continuing their tradition of community support.



Dave Grossman, volunteer

Contributions from both individuals and organizations are essential to the success of the project. ●



West Winds Gallery Celebrates Grand Opening

Cynthia Duff, a Friends of GJ Union Depot Board member and owner of West Winds Gallery of Fine Art, recently held the grand opening of her new gallery on Main Street.

After purchasing the former Main St Cafe building in September, Cynthia transformed the location into an elegant gallery designed to support Grand Junction's expanding art community.

As a Colorado native and lifelong artist, Cynthia has crafted a lively space that brings together creativity and community, inviting both collectors and art enthusiasts to explore remarkable works of art. You can visit the new gallery at 504 Main St. ●



WEST WINDS
GALLERY OF FINE ART

Help Us Restore GJ Union Depot... **One Brick at a Time!**

1. Engraved Paver \$200

This paver will be installed on the trackside patio. You can customize it with up to 18 characters per line, for a maximum of 3 lines.

This option also includes a one-year membership to the Friends of GJ Union Depot.

2. Commemorative Fire Brick \$50

You will receive an authentic fire brick recovered from the freight room of Grand Junction's Union Depot.

3. Paver + Brick Combo \$225

This package includes an engraved brick paver, a commemorative fire brick, and a one-year membership to the Friends of GJ Union Depot.

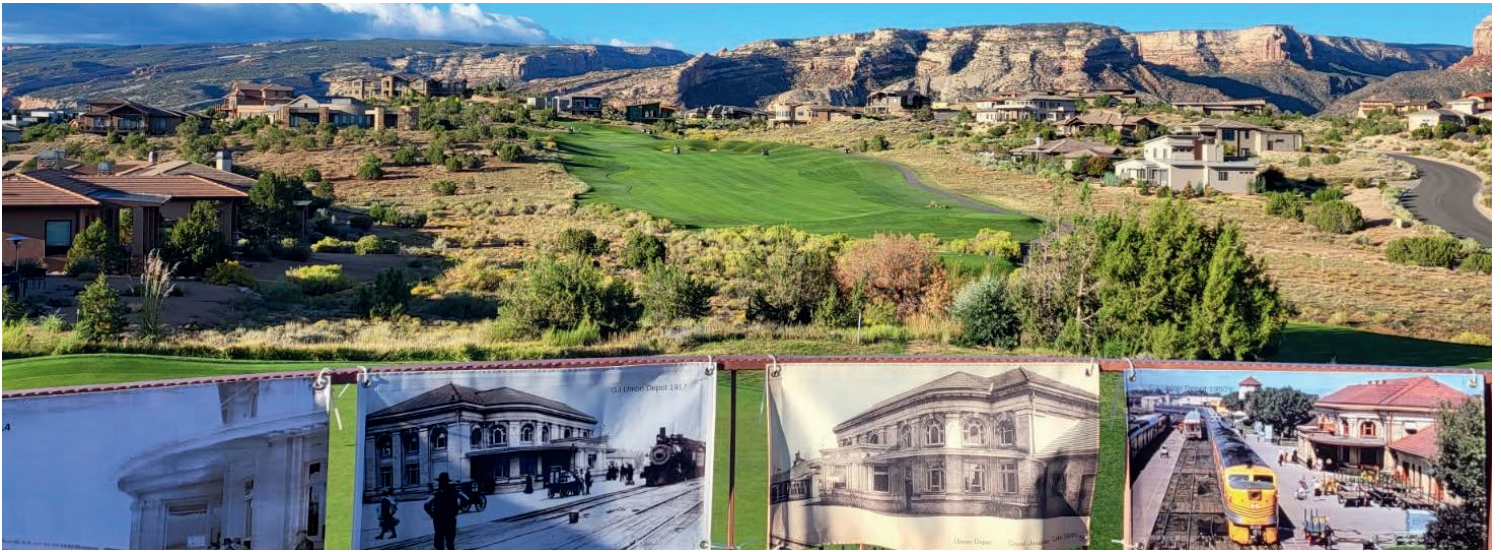


- 100% of proceeds will aid in the restoration of Grand Junction's Union Depot.
- Option 1 & 3 receive a 25% Colorado State tax credit for a qualified Enterprise Zone Contribution.
- Limited number of commemorative fire bricks available. Engraved brick pavers will be installed on the trackside patio upon project completion.
- Pavers & Bricks may be purchased at: **National Train Day Saturday, May 9th at GJ Union Depot**, or online at: **friendsofgjuniondepot.org/pavers**.

Please encourage friends and family to support the depot by sponsoring a paver or donating.



MARCH 1906 GJ Union Depot: Pallets of stacked red bricks ready for installation.



SAVE THE DATE:
3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament!

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable day of golf, giving, and community spirit! The 3rd Annual Friends of GJ Union Depot Charity Golf Tournament returns to Redlands Mesa Golf Club on



or a business looking to make an impact, there's a place for you!

• SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 •

Become a sponsor to showcase your business and support a great cause. Don't miss out—secure your spot and help us make this

Saturday, August 29th, 2026. Last year's tournament was a huge success with 106 golfers and over 30 sponsors, raising vital support for the restoration of the depot—and this year will be even bigger and better!

year's tournament the best one yet!

Get ready for exciting new on-course contests and prizes. Whether you're an avid golfer, a new player,

Want to become a sponsor or volunteer? Contact us today for more information. We can't wait to see you on the green!

Email: Friends@FriendsofGJUnionDepot.com ●

We invite you to join us
as a golfer, sponsor, or volunteer. Let's make this next tournament our best yet.

Friends of GJ Union Depot Mission Statement:

To support the restoration and preservation of Grand Junction's Historic Union Depot.

Board of Directors:

Bill Wade – Chair

JoAnn Sauvage – Secretary

Cynthia Duff – Director

Michael Nuttall – Vice-Chair

Samuel Baseler – Director

Dave Woodward – Director

Art Chase – Treasurer

Mary Brinton – Director

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