



Historic Los Angeles Railway Company power substation is future site of transportation museum.

MTA Working to Open Transportation Museum on Olvera Street

(March 13) The MTA is one of the prime movers behind an effort to open a \$1.5 million transportation museum that would become a focal point of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument and a major link in a chain of downtown museums.

The 11,325-square foot interactive museum will be located in Olvera Street's historic Los Angeles Railway Company power substation across Alameda Street from Union Station. Olvera Street is currently undergoing a \$22 million renovation.

The museum, directed mainly at children, will chronicle LA's transportation history with historic artifacts, transportation-related videos and educational displays on the Red and Yellow trolley cars that once networked the region. About two-thirds of the 2 million annual visitors to Olvera Street are children on school field trips.

The transportation museum will be an important stop on Angels Walk, the pedestrian path connecting downtown tourist venues. It will join the Children's Museum, the Japanese-American National Museum, the Geffen Contemporary Museum of Art, and others.

Robin Blair, MTA transportation planning manager and a member of the museum coordinating committee, expects the museum building renovation to take about a year. Within two years, static and dynamic displays should be installed and ready for visitors.

Caltrans recently announced funding of a \$1.257 million grant for the museum. The funds are expected to be available in July and will be matched with a City of Los Angeles grant to reach the \$1.5 million needed to renovate the substation and prepare it for museum use.

Former MTA Board member Nick Patsaouras, who has been a strong supporter of the museum project for a decade, is leading an effort to obtain additional funding for development of the educational and historic displays.

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