Cheers To 2024! All Aboard 2025!

The Galveston Railroad Museum is excited to take to the tracks in 2025 with new exhibits, programming, and partnerships, but we cannot leave the year behind without a review.

The POLAR Express Train Ride brought our year to a conclusion on a high note. Hosting visitors from around the world, we would not have been able to produce such a high-quality family event without our professional partners. We are very appreciative for the support of Warner Bros., Rail Events, Inc., ETC East End Theater Co., Riondo's Ristorante, Gypsy Joynt, Landry's Inc., Sherrariums Plantscaping, Moody Gardens Hotel, and Visit Galveston. Strategic partnerships are key to making our annual Christmas event an over-the-top success that benefits the entire community.

The museum's growth forecast promises to hold momentum. Expanded programming includes increased participation from Humanities Texas, Battleship Texas Foundation, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas A & M, and Houston Museum of History & Natural Science. Members will enjoy new exhibits, including access to the permanent collection, educational, and hands-on opportunities.

Events in the new year kick off with the unveiling of the Milwaukee Stock Car on January 18, and will continue to roll down the tracks for RailFest April 26 – 27, Harvey House Dinner, June 14, Rail Baron's Ball, October 4, and POLAR Express Train Ride, November 12 - December 23. New is an Augmented Reality program co-presented with Texas A&M, spring break, and an outdoor exhibit with the Houston Museum of Natural Science & History.

Educational outreach, in addition to Pre-K – High School, now includes sensory tours and curriculum for autistic individuals. The museum's intern program offers opportunities to students interested in museum sciences who are interested in working with the education and curatorial departments. The talents of our current interns have assisted in accession of the museum's collection, RailFinds exhibits, student field trips, event staff support, and much more.

The Arthur J. Carmody, Jr. Library, open by reservation to members, scholars, and students, gives access to rare books and a wealth of resources for research. Registered and linked with the Library of Congress, researchers may now access the museum's collection online or contact the Director of Education for assistance.

Home of the only RailHotel in Texas, we invite you to spend the night aboard one of our pristinely restored sleeping cars, Bonnie Brook or Silver Foot, available by reservation. A unique mini-break option that includes 24 hour concierge service, security, parking, and optional personal chef, virtual tours are available on our website <u>www.galvestonrrmuseum.org</u>.

As a memorable special event venue, we cordially invite you for a tour when planning your wedding, gala, dinner, meeting, or important celebration. We are capable of hosting 10 - 350 guests with a choice of remarkable spaces with complimentary event planning support. Call if we can be of assistance.

The Center for Transportation & Commerce, The Galveston Railroad Museum, is growing. If you have not visited lately, we invite you to enjoy an immersive experience. Admission for locals Museum Days January 24 - 26 is two for one entry and members enjoy free admission year-round. We look forward to your visit. There's never been a better time to reacquaint yourself with one of the island's treasures.

David Robertson, Executive Director

