



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2019

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CONTACT:

PATRICIA LABOUNTY - Curator

O: 402-501-3841 | E: plabout@up.com

THE DURHAM MUSEUM CONTACT

JESSICA BRUMMER - Director of Communications

O: 402-444-5071, x560 | C: 402-578-7192

E: jbrummer@DurhamMuseum.org

LAURITZEN GARDENS CONTACT:

MIA JENKINS - Director of Marketing

O: 402-346-4002, ext. 205 | C: 316-655-3911

E: m.jenkins@omahabotanicalgardens.org

This press release can be found at <http://www.omaharailroaddays.com>

ALL ABOARD for a fun-filled weekend!

Annual event to feature Union Pacific's historic steam locomotive – Big Boy No. 4014

Omaha, Neb---Celebrate our region's rich railroad heritage and all things train and track at Railroad Days 2019. On Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 14 from 9AM to 5PM, Lauritzen Gardens, The Durham Museum, Union Pacific Railroad Museum, RailsWest Railroad Museum and the Historic General Dodge House are teaming up for this favorite annual event.

NEW VENUE THIS YEAR! An additional venue will be added at Union Pacific's Home Plate located at 1001 N 11th St. across from TD Ameritrade Park. During Railroad Days, visitors are invited to explore Union Pacific's No. 4014, the "Big Boy" steam locomotive and the *Experience Union Pacific* rail car. The *Big Boy's* return to the rails is the product of more than two years of meticulous restoration work by the Union Pacific Steam Team. No. 4014 is the world's only operating *Big Boy* locomotive. The *Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car* is a new, multi-media walk-through exhibition providing a glimpse at the past while telling the story of modern-day railroading. Through sound, images and interactive technology, visitors learn how Union Pacific trains transport fresh apples across the country using cutting-edge technology. The exhibit also steps back in time, detailing the hard work and know-how that went into building the transcontinental railroad, and the evolution of locomotives, beginning with the world-famous UP No. 119 and leading to today's diesel powerhouses.

-more-



Home Plate will be open 9AM-5PM Saturday and 9AM-Noon Sunday. Both the No. 4014 and the Experience Car will be open for public viewing during the event until 4PM on Saturday and on Sunday until 11AM. After 11AM on Sunday, July 14, the display area will close and the public will move a safe distance before the train moves. Access to the Home Plate area during Railroad Days requires an event wristband.

Please note that due to its historic nature, Union Pacific's Heritage Passenger Fleet equipment -- including the Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car -- is not ADA accessible. For more information about No. 4014, visit <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/>

Passes for Railroad Days can be purchased on July 13 or 14 at any of the participating venues, as well as Home Plate. Presale passes can be purchased starting the week of June 17 at The Durham Museum, Lauritzen Gardens and the Union Pacific Railroad Museum during their regular hours of operation. Each family pass (two adults and all dependent children) is \$15 and allows admission to and transportation (by school bus or trolley) between all locations. A \$5 pass is available for one additional adult with the purchase of a family pass. The event gives families the opportunity to explore the exhibits and collections at five of the area's railroad-themed attractions plus visit the *Big Boy* No. 4014, all at one low price. Parking is available at all five venues. **NOTE:** Parking is also available in LOT D of the CHI Health Center for \$8 (cash or credit).

Railroad Days is made possible thanks to the generous support of Union Pacific Railroad and a grant provided by the Iowa West Foundation. Media support is provided by KETV. Printing support is provided by Elman & Co.

LAURITZEN GARDENS

During Railroad Days, botanical meets mechanical at Lauritzen Gardens. Get up close and personal with two of the greatest locomotives to ever power Union Pacific Railroad at Kenefick Park. Stand in awe at Centennial No. 6900, one of the most powerful diesel-electric locomotives ever built, and Big Boy No. 4023, one of the world's largest steam locomotives. Visit the model railroad garden to discover seven bridge-chugging, tunnel-zooming G-scale train lines winding through replicas of Omaha's favorite landmarks.

Small children can enjoy complimentary rides on a classic 1949 King Amusement Company On-Track Train Ride. With G_n15, H, N, and O-scale model train exhibits, a working rail yard made entirely from LEGO® bricks, railroad ditties from entertainer Paul Siebert, as well as children's activities, *The Great Gnome Escape* summer scavenger hunt, and 100 acres of display gardens, there is plenty to capture the visitors' imagination and celebrate all things train and track.

THE DURHAM MUSEUM

For this year's Railroad Days, "Freight Train" Frank will be back at The Durham playing railroad songs, so sit back and enjoy the music or grab an instrument and get in on the fun! Visit House of Trains on Track Level to view model trains and have the chance to speak one-on-one with model railroad experts. Missouri Valley Free-Mo will transform The Swanson Gallery into a massive model railroad display depicting actual locations in the Midwest! Guests will be able to take advantage of the museum's current travelling exhibition, *Tyrannosaurs: Meet the Family*, and see "Scotty" the largest and oldest *T.rex* ever discovered plus, 10 life-sized dinosaur specimens, including 5 complete tyrannosaurs cast skeletons.

-more-



Beautiful architecture blends with memories of a time gone by at the historic Durham Museum. Opened in 1931, Union Station was built by Union Pacific Railroad as the showpiece to the city of its headquarters. Considered one of Omaha's most unique treasures, and now an official National Historic Landmark, the station is one of the best examples of art deco architecture in the country. During your stay be sure to stop by the authentic soda fountain! For information about The Durham Museum please visit the museum's website at www.DurhamMuseum.org.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD MUSEUM

Visitors are invited to reflect on the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad through the exhibit, *"Hidden Histories of the Transcontinental Railroad."* Artifacts on display include official proclamations from the City of Council Bluffs and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recognizing the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad, as well as an expanded display of artifacts celebrating Council Bluffs, Iowa, as Union Pacific's Mile 0. During Railroad Days, special Chinese Lion Dance performances by the Jing Mo Tong Athletic Association will be presented on the hour from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in addition to cultural exhibitions hosted by the Nebraska Chinese Association.

RAILSWEST RAILROAD MUSEUM

The RailsWest Railroad Museum, located in the historic Rock Island Depot, features displays and artifacts from the numerous rail lines that passed through Council Bluffs. Outside in the train yard, visitors are invited to climb aboard the old steam engines. Walk through the Omaha Club car that stopped in Council Bluffs or imagine themselves riding along behind the train in the 1918 cupola style caboose or in the 1967 bay window style caboose. Visitors can also be a part of the 1st Annual Live Garden Scale Steam Up in the train yard. There is always plenty to see and do while visiting the RailsWest Railroad Museum.

HISTORIC GENERAL DODGE HOUSE

One of Council Bluffs' most famous residents, General Grenville M. Dodge has been called "the greatest railroad builder of all time," having surveyed over 100,000 miles of line. A Civil War General, Dodge's involvement in political, financial, and military affairs made him an associate of many of the most influential Americans of his time and counsel to presidents, with five presidents spending time in his home.

In 1869, Dodge built his handsome Victorian home at the cost of \$35,000, a lavish sum for the day. The home was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 1961 and opened as a museum in 1964. Our new exhibit will allow visitors a glimpse of how people in Dodge's day spent their leisure time.

###