

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

FACT SHEET

About the New York Transit Museum:

The New York Transit Museum, one of the city's leading cultural institutions, is the largest museum in the United States devoted to urban public transportation history and one of the premier institutions of its kind in the world. The Museum explores the development of the greater New York metropolitan region through the presentation of exhibitions, tours, educational programs and workshops dealing with the cultural, social and technological history of public transportation. Since its inception nearly 40 years ago, the Museum – which is housed in a historic 1936 IND subway station in Downtown Brooklyn – has grown in scope and popularity. The New York Transit Museum operates a Gallery Annex in Grand Central Terminal that presents changing exhibitions. As custodian and interpreter of the region's extensive public transportation networks, the Museum strives to share through its public programs their rich and vibrant history with local, regional, and international audiences.

Location:

New York Transit Museum

Located at the corner of Boerum Place & Schermerhorn Street
Downtown Brooklyn

New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex & Store at Grand Central Terminal

Located just off the main concourse in the Shuttle Passage
Adjacent to the Station Master's Office

Hours:

New York Transit Museum

Tuesday – Friday: 10 AM to 4 PM; Saturday – Sunday: 11 AM to 5 PM; Closed Mondays

New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex & Store at Grand Central Terminal

Monday – Friday: 8 AM to 8 PM; Saturday – Sunday: 10 AM to 6 PM

Admission:

New York Transit Museum

Adults: \$7

Children 2 – 17 years of age: \$5

Senior Citizens (62+): \$5 – Free on Wednesdays

Museum members: Free

New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex & Store at Grand Central Terminal

Free

History:

On July 4, 1976, "The New York City Transit Exhibit" opened to the public in a decommissioned subway station in Downtown Brooklyn. Conceived and organized by New York City Transit employees and volunteers to commemorate the US Bicentennial, the exhibit celebrated the city's subway system as one of the nation's great achievements in engineering. Scheduled to close on Labor Day that year, it proved so popular that it was never dismantled – and continues today as the New York Transit Museum. A Gallery Annex & Store in Grand Central Terminal opened in 1999.

Mission:

The Transit Museum's mission is to collect, exhibit, interpret and preserve the history, sociology, and technology of public transportation in the New York metropolitan region, and to conduct research and educational programs that will make the Museum's extensive collection accessible and meaningful to a broad audience.

Facility:

The Transit Museum's main facility is our largest and most important artifact: a two-level, 60,000 square foot IND subway station at the corner of Schermerhorn Street and Boerum Place in Downtown Brooklyn. Built in 1936 as part of the first attempt to build a Second Avenue subway line, it was decommissioned in 1946 and used mainly for storage until the Transit Exhibit opened there thirty years later.

Exhibits:

The upper (mezzanine) level features a permanent exhibit about the original construction of the subway, long-term installations of historic turnstiles and surface transit artifacts (including two buses), and changing exhibits about or inspired by the iconic New York transit system. Downstairs on the platform level, a rotating collection of up to 20 subway and elevated cars from throughout the 20th century lines the tracks, complete with vintage advertisements.

Programs:

Transit Museum programs explore the history, ingenuity, and inner workings of the transit system that is the lifeblood of our region. The Museum promotes lifelong learning through tours and gallery talks, panel discussions, and performances, as well as behind-the-scenes tours of train yards, bus depots and power stations, and excursions aboard our vintage trains. Visit www.mta/info/museum/programs for more information on upcoming programs.

Museum Store:

The Transit Museum Store was established to support the exhibition and educational programming of the New York Transit Museum. With stores in the Museum's main subway station home in Downtown Brooklyn, at the Museum's Gallery Annex and Store at Grand Central Terminal, and online, the stores generate about 20% of the Museum's operating revenue. Products sold in our stores use well-known and historic iconography of New York's subways, buses, commuter railroads, bridges and tunnels to create stylish, must-have apparel, accessories and collectibles that conjure urban street life and the energy of the greatest city in the world.

Public Information:

www.nytransitmuseum.org or 718-694-1600.

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