



NEW MEXICO RAILROAD HISTORY  
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE  
Santa Fe Railyard    Guadalupe & Paseo de Peralta  
July 20, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Experience and celebrate the unique vast treasure of New Mexico's railroad history.**

THE NEW MEXICO RAILROAD HISTORY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE will host the only statewide annual railroad history celebration in the nation, from September 8 through 30th, 2018, with special events scheduled the weekend of September 15 and 16. Most activities will take place in and around El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, 555 Camino de la Familia, in the Santa Fe Railyard. All activities will run from 10 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays. This celebration coincides with the Ten-Year-Anniversary of the Santa Fe Railyard District. The weekend starts on Thursday evening Sept. 13 (5-8pm) at the New Mexico History Museum's Auditorium with the public invited to an Opening Night Reception and Panel Discussion of New Mexico Railroad History with prominent officials and citizens that contributed to our state's railroad history.

**During the celebratory weekend of September 15-16**, El Museo Cultural will feature a 21,000 sq. ft. exhibition of historical railroad art and photography on the walls, surrounding model railroad layouts with operating trains (some of which can be run by visitors). Professionals, amateurs, and children will provide the art and photography. The famous Christmas holiday train layout on loan from the First National Bank of Santa Fe is planned to be on display. Both days, the Violet Crown Cinema will hold a Train Film Festival showing famous railroad movies and an operating model railroad layout in their lobby. The Santa Fe Depot Visitors Center will unveil a permanent operating model railroad layout built by Santa Fe Model Railroad Club. Visitors will be able to take free shuttles to special railroad history displays and presentations at the New Mexico History Museum and La Fonda, including the latter's popular docent-led history walks—featuring NM railroad history: They will learn about historic landmarks such as Harvey Houses in Santa Fe (La Fonda) and Las Vegas (La Castañeda), as well as the famous Harvey Girls.

For the children, El Museo will host special activities including playing with trains (wooden and operating models), as well as coloring train pictures to display on the museum walls. The team from MAKE Santa Fe will be demonstrating 3-D technology by printing model cabooses.

El Museo will host food concessions as well as artist, educational, and informational booths. There will be railroad videos and historic railroad photomontages shown in a cinema video projection dome on loan from and operated by the Children's Museum. Visitors will enjoy information booths about NM Railroad History, including: NM railroad tourism destinations (Santa Fe, Taos, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Chama, Raton, Clovis, Vaughn, Belén, Gallup, etc.); the Chili Line and Harvey Houses; railway companies (Rail Runner, Santa Fe Southern, Cumbres & Toltec, and Durango & Silverton); historical societies; historic locomotives and restoration projects (Santa Fe #2926, Southern Pacific #4449, #5030, #168, #169, etc.); and railroad-related organizations (Operation Lifesaver, Trails & Rails, World's Greatest Hobby).

On the Railyard tracks, visitors will be able to view, photograph, and board full-size equipment owned by Rail Runner and Santa Fe Southern Railway. And there will be railway maintenance equipment on display at track-side.

On Saturday, September 15, the Railyard Park is hosting a living history exploration, where participants can enjoy cultural reenactments and demonstrations of life from the era. On Sunday, September 16, the Railyard Plaza and the Baca Railyard will be celebrating their Tenth Anniversary with music, a parade, food vendors, and family-friendly activities for all to enjoy.

**From September 8 through 30**, on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 to 4, El Museo Cultural will host the art and photography exhibition along with working model railroad layouts.

The First Annual New Mexico Railroad History Celebration will be presented with the help and contributions of the following:

Alpha Engineering, Inc.	Santa Fe Children's Museum
El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe	Santa Fe Community Foundation
First National Bank of Santa Fe	Santa Fe Model Railroad Club
Keep Santa Fe Beautiful	Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation
La Fonda on the Plaza	Santa Fe Southern Railway
New Mexico History Museum	TOURISM Santa Fe (santafe.org)
NM Rail Runner Express/Rio Metro	Violet Crown Cinema
Railyard Park Conservancy	

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