



## Newsletter

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### 2014 -A Quick Review

*The museum completed another successful year in 2014 and is now looking forward to a more successful 2015.*

*The museum counted approx 5000 visitors in 2014. (4779 through November). Not included are several thousand visitors to special events where no admission to the museum was charged. These included National Train Day, Central Station's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the River Arts Fest.*



*Tennessee State Representative John DeBerry presents Dr. Tyrone T. Davis with MRTM's "Community Leadership Award " on Martin Luther King Day 2014.*

*A special occasion each year is Martin Luther King Day (third Monday in January) and Black History Month (February). Usually closed on Mondays, the museum is open on Martin Luther*

*King Day and a program with a guest speaker is a highlight of the day.*

*Special exhibits featuring often overlooked black contributions to the rail industry are on display throughout the month.*



*CN Railroad Delivers the Power that was displayed on National Train Day.*

*National Train Day (May 14<sup>th</sup>) was a success again in 2014. On display were locomotives from the BNSF, CN, NS and UP. CN personnel supervised tours of the cab of their locomotive and their interaction with guests, especially children, was exemplary. As the tracks through Central Station are owned by the CN, the CN handled the delivery of all the locomotives on display. An estimated 1600 people visited us on National Train Day. This is a little bit lower than the 2014 attendance, but the lack of Amtrak equipment and less advertising by Amtrak contributed to the decrease.*

*Rivalling and probably surpassing National Train Day was the One Hundredth Anniversary of Central Station. Originally envisioned as a one day event on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary ended up being a four day affair.*



*The Grahams recording session. It was a real treat!*



*Husband and wife singing duo “The Grahams”, who had previously performed at the museum in July, booked Hudson Hall (the old waiting room) the evening of October 2<sup>nd</sup> for a recording session that was open to the public. It was truly a unique experience for those who attended.*



*Amtrak & NS Exhibits arrived a day early.*

*The Amtrak Exhibit Train and the NS Exhibit Car, originally scheduled to arrive on the south-bound City of New Orleans the evening of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, actually arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> due to Pullman Rail Journey's equipment being on the City of New Orleans on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Both exhibits were open three days, October 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. Once again the CN Railroad came through in fine fashion, once again providing cab tours on one of their locomotives.*



*River Arts Fest*

*(River Arts Fest photo)*

*Every October South Main Street is blocked off and for three days the River Arts Fest is celebrated with artist's booths, music and food. In previous years the museum considered the Art Fest weekend something not to be embraced but merely tolerated because it blocked our entrance and people did not want to pay admission to both the Art Fest and the museum.*

*In 2014 we turned lemons into lemonade. In cooperation with the River Arts Fest, the museum parked a baggage cart in the middle of Main Street with a banner advertising free admission to the museum. Gift Shop sales and donations more than made up for the loss of admission fees.*

## 2015

*What to expect in 2015? With the exception of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the same special events will be celebrated again this year, starting with Martin Luther King Day on January 19<sup>th</sup>. National Train day is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>, but there is some talk about rescheduling due to Mother's Day being on May 10<sup>th</sup>. In October the River Arts Fest will returned, dates not known at this time.*

## Train Simulator Project



*NS Train Simulator*

*(NS photo)*

*If you happened to go through the NS Exhibit car you probably saw their train simulator. The museum has a similar train simulator under development and soon visitors will be able to try their hand as a railroad engineer. One major difference between the MRTM and NS simulators will be that where the NS used a control stand from an actual locomotive the MRTM will initially be using a console with push buttons. Hopefully, the console will be replaced with a control stand in the not to distant future.*