An ongoing railway museum: Transforming a railway workshop into a museum

Chang, Ting-Chao Preparatory Office of National Railway Museum (Taipei, Taiwan) December 16, 2023



Overview of Taipei Railway Workshop

- Built in 1935, Taipei Railway Workshop was once the largest and newest one in Taiwan.
- After WWII, the site had been the main workshop for the maintenance and repair of rolling stock in Taiwan for long.
- The buildings and facilities of the site reflect the contexts and steps of rolling stock maintenance, which shows its significance as an industrial heritage site.
- The labor culture of the site also contributes to the field of welfare and humanities studies.















From Site Preservation to the Establishment of the Museum

April 2015

December 2016

August 2019

2023

End of 2024

2027

- The entire discontinued site of Taipei Railway Workshop was designated as a national monument.
- the Executive
 Yuan approved a
 plan to transform
 the site into a
 national railway
 museum.
- The Preparatory
 Office of National
 Railway Museum
 was established.
- Four exhibitions were opened in September for ten days, one of which remained open to the public.
- The exhibition halls and museum facilities of the first stage will be opened to the public.
- A nondepartmental public body is planned to be established to operate the entire museum.

- ◆ Competent authority: Ministry of Culture
- ◆ Category: Public Construction
- ◆ Period: 2017~2026 (2023 is the 7th year.)

Objective:

Preserve the integrity of railway industrial heritage in Taiwan, and revitalize the Taipei Railway Workshop as a national railway museum to represent related historical memory.





Our preservation strategy

Principles of transformation

- Preserving the integrity of the site
- Restored in order
- Opened in phases

Principles of restoration

- Based on museum functions
- Reviewed by specialists
- Installing reversible equipment for visitor service

Progress

- 2015 | The site is designated as a national monument
- 2018 | Restoration and reuse plan was published
- 2020 | Restoration and reuse plan was adjusted

Steps of drafting the restoration and reuse plan

Evaluate the value of buildings and facilities (such as tracks and cranes) based on age, context, and usage.



Develop restoration and reuse strategies based on significance.



Assess the suitability for reuse according to context, memories, and condition.

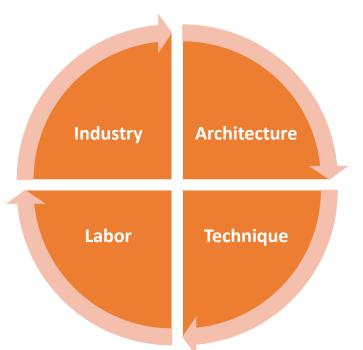


Zone the site for museum use, daily operation, business use, and open space.



A Living Railway Museum

Heritage value of the site



Content first

Goal: A Living Railway Museum

Building restoration

Dynamic conservation

Ongoing action

Building restoration

Transform the site into a museum for visitors and researchers

Railway operation

Maintain the railway system and rolling stock for operation

Research & collection

Explore the diversity of railway culture and history

Exhibition & Education

Curate Exhibitions and design activities based on research outcome





Curatorial concepts in September 2023

To convey our vision and the value of railway cultural heritage to the public,
We curate exhibitions to display the outcomes of preparation processes.
Visitors can experience the characteristics of "a living railway museum" in advance on site.

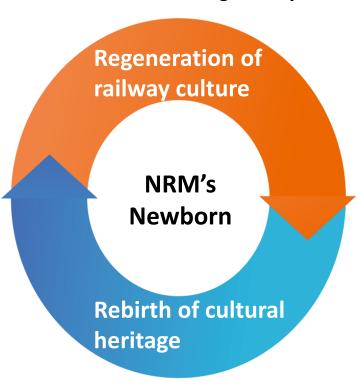
Main Office

Bathhouse

Forging Shop

Coach Shop

- Revitalize monument buildings through contents and collections.
- Discover the potential and significance of the industrial heritage site.



- Translate railway culture and history into exhibitions.
- Demonstrate the cultural context of the railway and the public's daily lives.

Exhibitions of railway culture

Nostalgic blue diesel railcars

NRM specialty lunchboxes







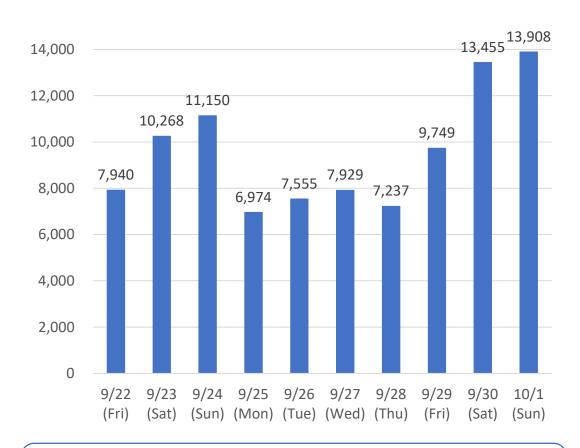






Our performance in September 2023

Number of Visitors



Total: 96,165 visitors in 10 days

Data source: Chunghwa Telecom









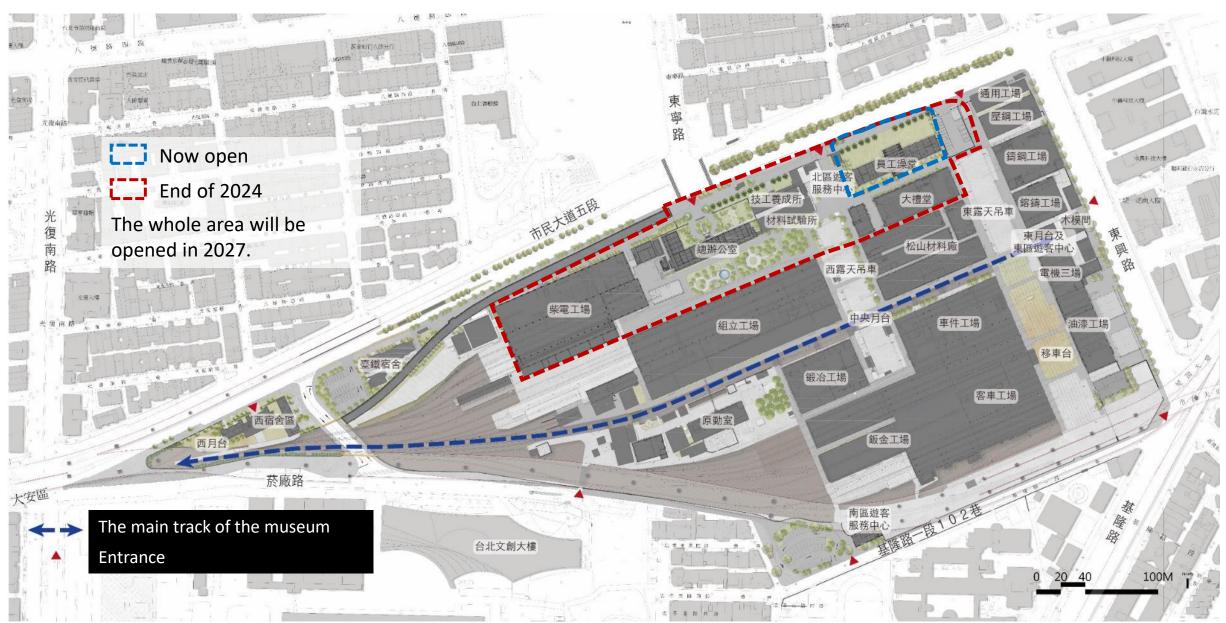








Schedule of opening

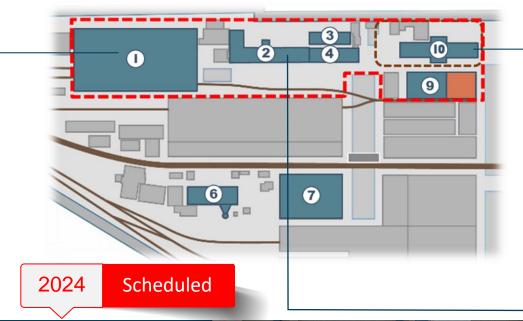




Ground plan of the museum 往捷運南京三民站 往捷運南京三民站 West station Main entrance Service area (14) (15) Train ride 往捷運國父紀念館站 9 16 Songshan (5) (12) (18) Cultural and East station Creative Park Train ride Service area 20 P (7) Taipei Dome 博物館展示空間 Exhibition Area 7 ● 現地展 On-site Exhibition ● 常設展 Permanent Exhibition ○ 特展 Special Exhibition ● 活化應用 Activation Application 8 西露天吊車 ● ● 柴電工場 ● ● ● ● Diesel-Electric Locomotive Worksho IS 壓鋼工場 ● Rolling Mill **(B)** (19) 9 大禮堂 • • 16 鑄鋼工場 • Steel Products Shop 員工澡堂
 ■
 Employee Bathhouse 17 油漆工場 ● Paint Shop 3 技工養成所 ● Technician Apprentice Scho 4 材料試驗所 • • ● 客車工場 ● Coach Shoo (9) 鈑金工場 ● ● ● ● Sheet Metal Shop 5 組立工場 ● ● ● 12 東露天吊車 • East Outdoor Overhead Crane South area Service area **6** 原動室 ● Ⅰ3 移車台● 20 木模間 Pattern Shop 7 鍛冶工場 • Forging Shop ● 通用工場 ● General Utility Shop 中央運轉線 Central line 遊客乘車月台 往捷運 一般遊客入口 Entrance for General Visits 典藏車輛展示車庫 餐飲服務 市政府站 Train Shed for Heritage Rolling Stock Collections 遊客服務處 團體遊客入口 博物館典藏庫房 保留性開發空間 乘車購票入口 ※ 空間配置及機能將以博物館開館時公告版本為主。

Plans of exhibition halls





2023 Opened



Bathnews sool is represented as its original appearance. The two wings of the architecture demonstrate the art-decomovement in the 1930s and the monument restoration of the site.



① Diesel-Electric • Locomotive

Whosikshop kinds of rolling stock collections in the first stage of opening. In the future, this site will be focused on diesel-electric cars.



② Main

Office
Parts of the site will recover the historic official space of the workshop. A permanent exhibition on the interrelation of railway and culture will be curated here.

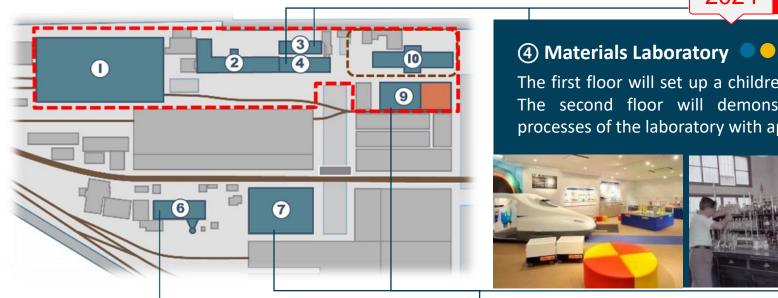


Plans of museum facilities

On-site Utilization

2024

Opened



The first floor will set up a children's space. The second floor will demonstrate the processes of the laboratory with appliances.



③ Technician •• **Apprentice School**

The former classrooms will open to the public for rental with an exclusive lounge for TRA's retired employees.



(6) Power House

The processes of generating and supplying power will be displayed on site.



(7) Forging Shop • •



The machinery will be demonstrated on site based on their original context. In the longterm, science education workshops are planned to be offered here.



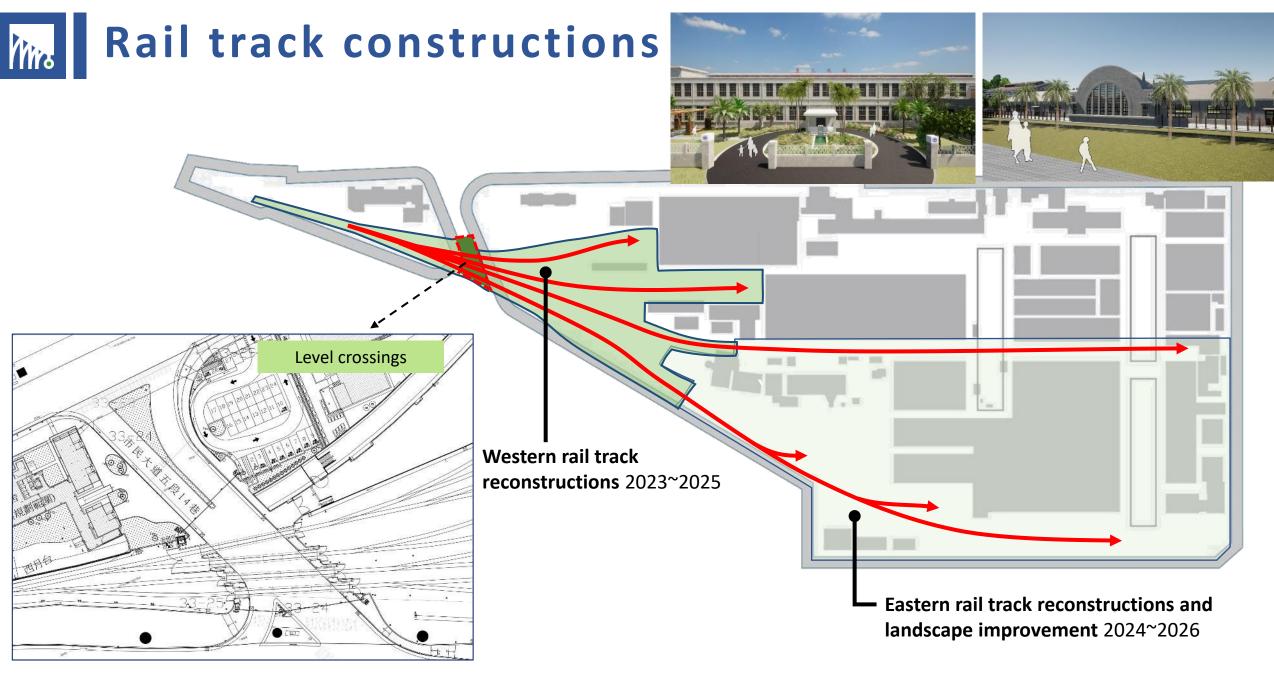
(9) Main Hall Output Output



Continuing its original function, the site will be the main service facility in the museum for dining and events.







- Create a field for cultural tourism and leisure activities.
- Build a business environment for related experiences and events.

- Invite the public to participate in the railway community.
- Promote the museum as an integrated brand.
- Develop exhibition on railway history, railway culture, and railway techniques.
- Display railway memories of Taiwan and its connection to the global society.

Railway
Operation &
Maintenance

Encounter

Exchange

Business & Management

Public service

Creation

Curation & Exhibition

- Provide train rides in the museum area.
 - Display rolling stock in operation or exhibition.

Research &
Development

- Interpret railway techniques and culture.
- Establish the knowledge base of the railway field.

Collection & Conservation

- Collect antiques through surveys and collaboration.
- Establish a resource center on railway culture for researchers.

