


The vision of a “living” railway museum

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(Taipei, Taiwan)
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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



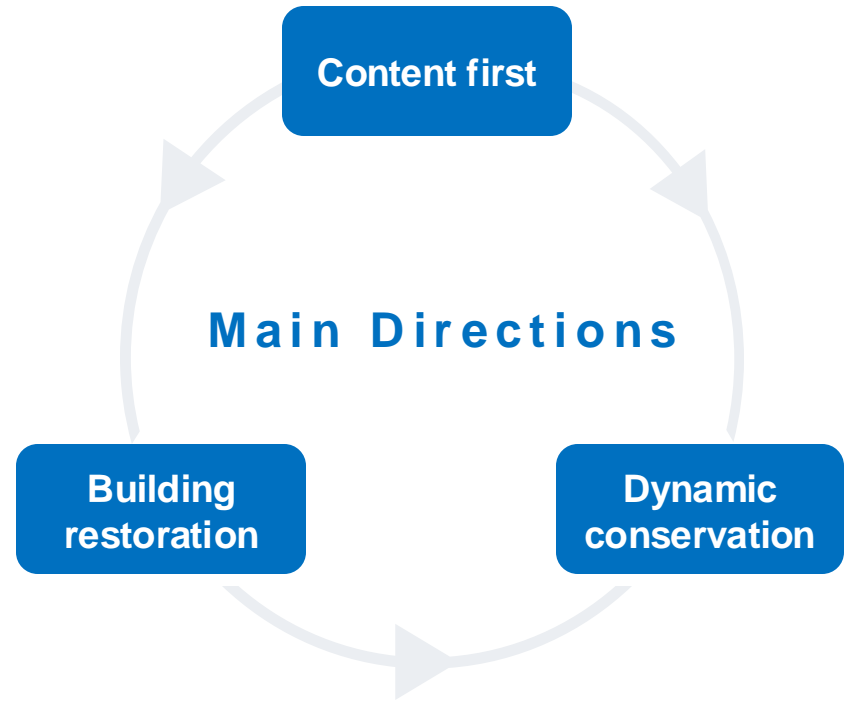
- ◆ Competent authority : Ministry of Culture
- ◆ Category : Public Construction
- ◆ Period : 2017~2026 (2024 is the 8th year.)

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.

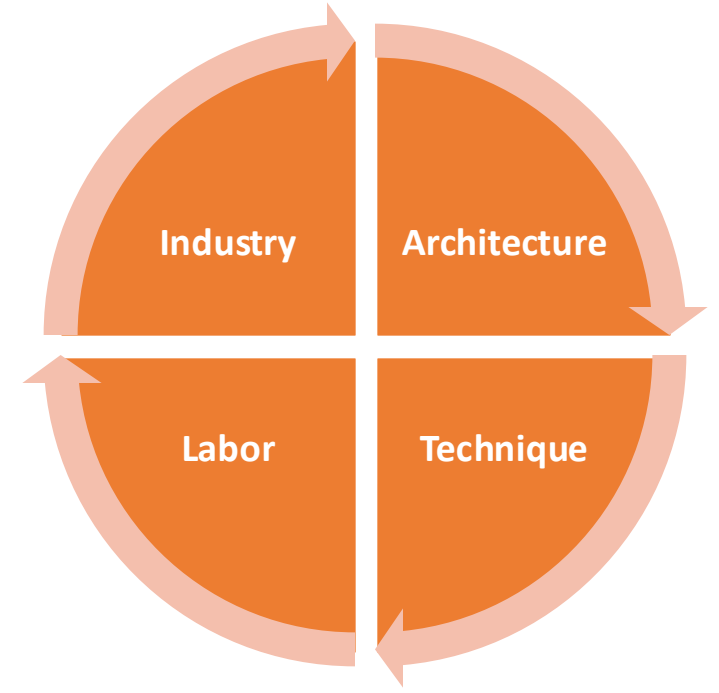




Goal: A Living Railway Museum

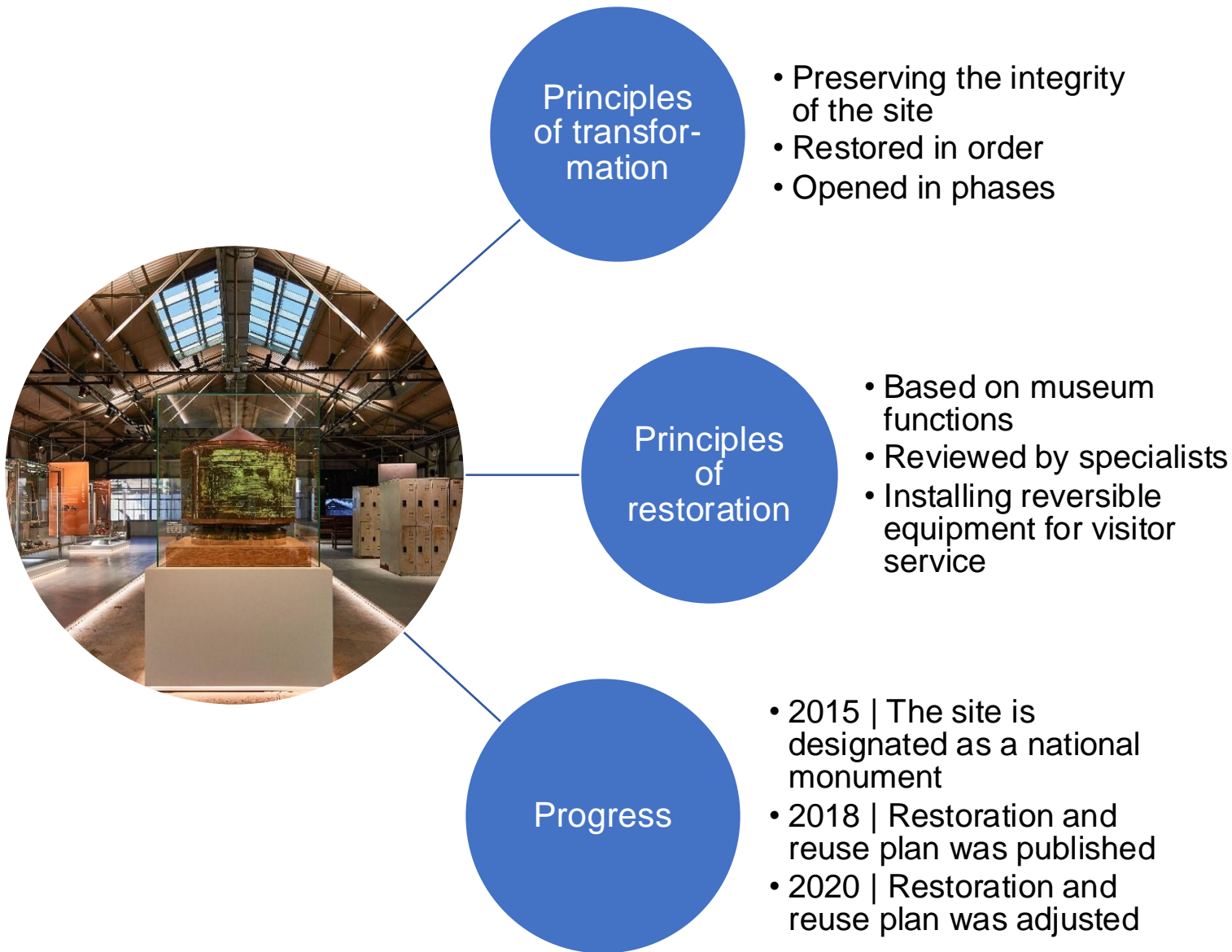


Heritage value of the site

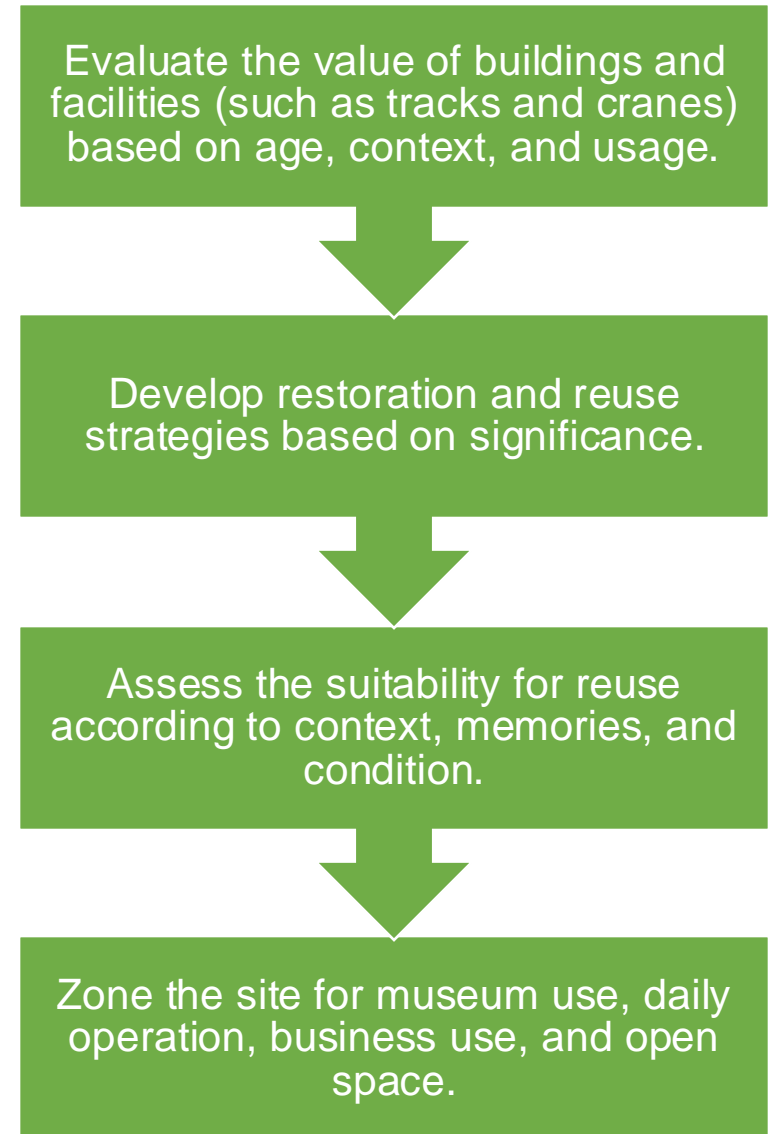




Our preservation strategy



Steps of drafting the restoration and reuse plan



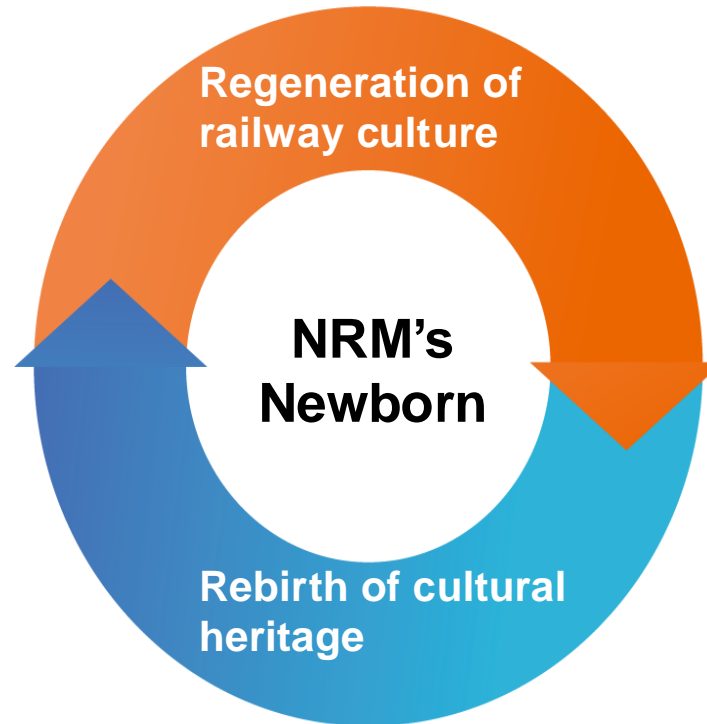


Curatorial concepts in September 2023

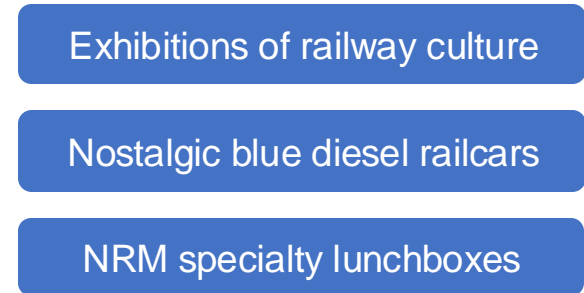
To convey our vision and the value of railway cultural heritage to the public,
We curate exhibitions to display the outcomes of preparation processes.
Visitors can experience the characteristics of “a living railway museum” in advance on site.



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

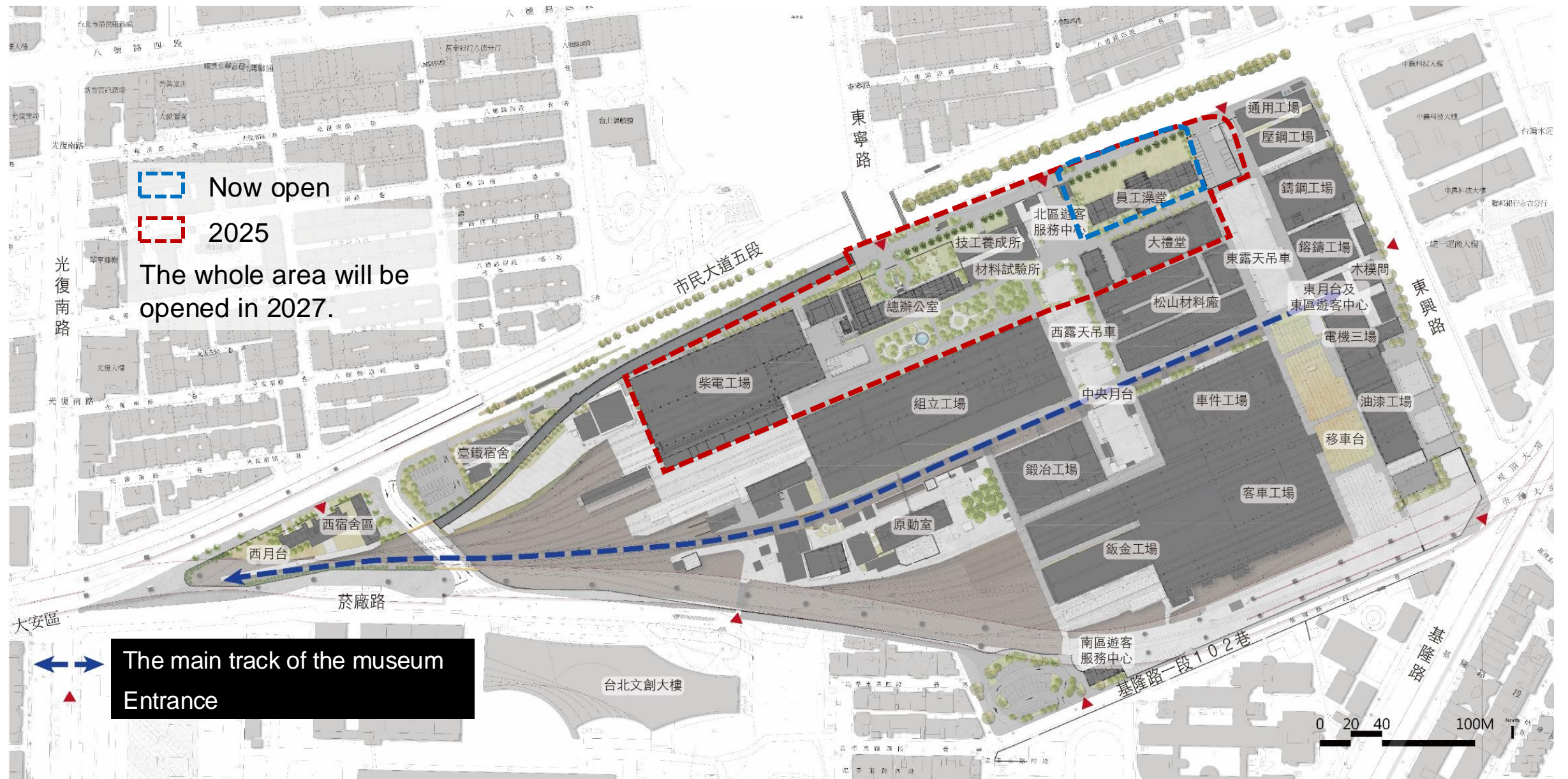


- Translate railway culture and history into exhibitions.
- Demonstrate the cultural context of the railway and the public's daily lives.



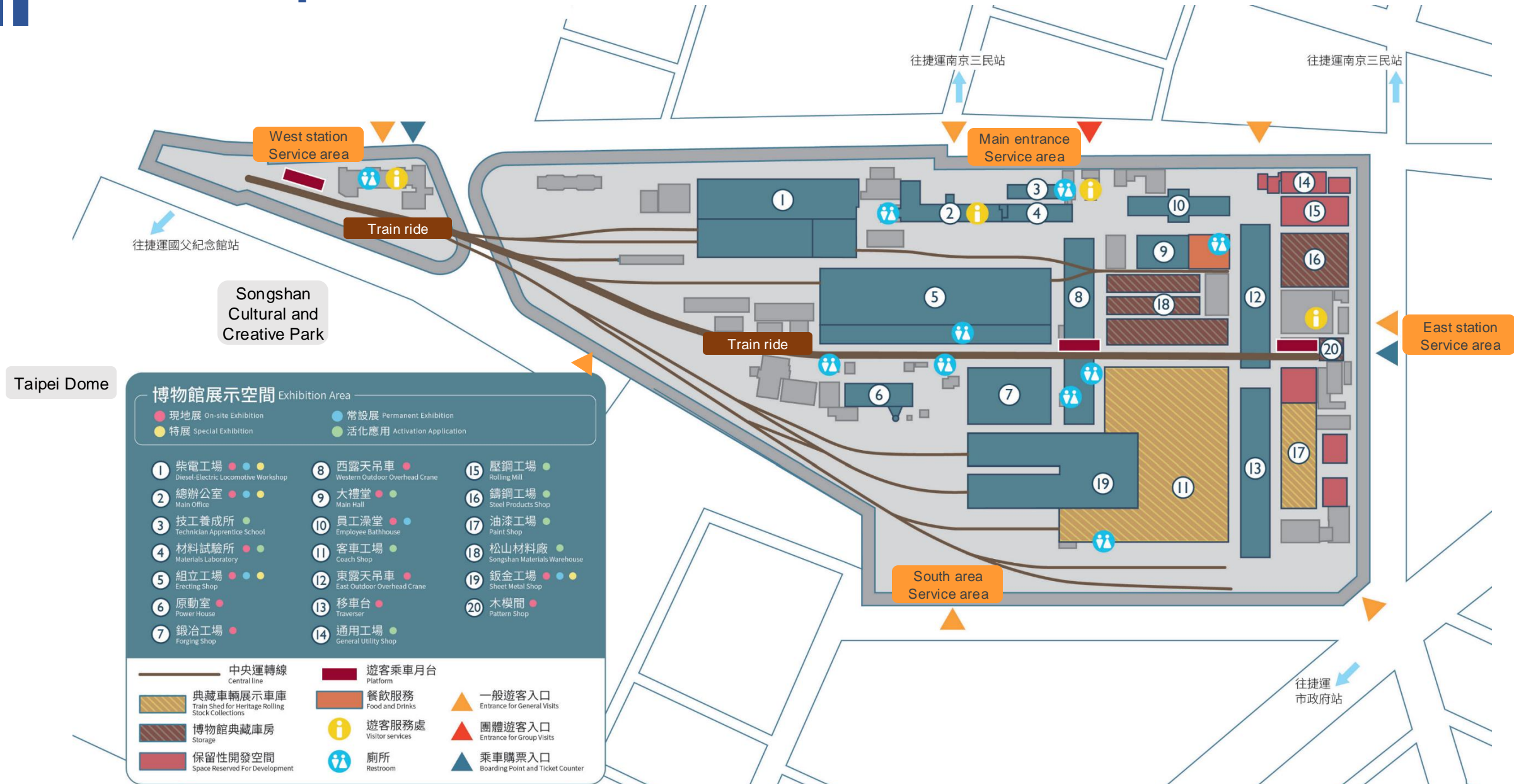


Schedule of opening





Ground plan of the museum



※ 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

- On-site
- Permanent
- Special



2025 Scheduled

2023

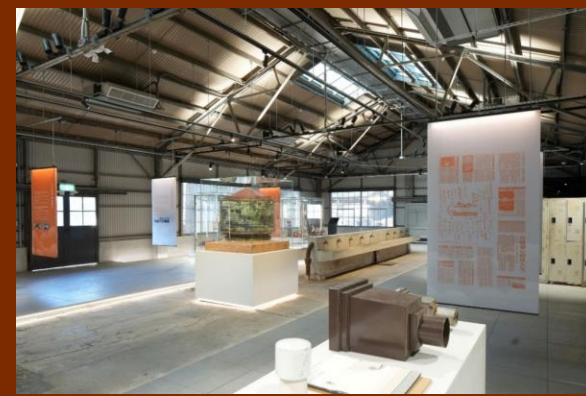
Opened

⑩ Bathhouse ●●

The central pool is represented as its original appearance. The two wings of the architecture demonstrate the art-deco movement in the 1930s and the monument restoration of the site.

2024

Scheduled



① Diesel-Electric Locomotive Workshop ●●

Exhibit all 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.

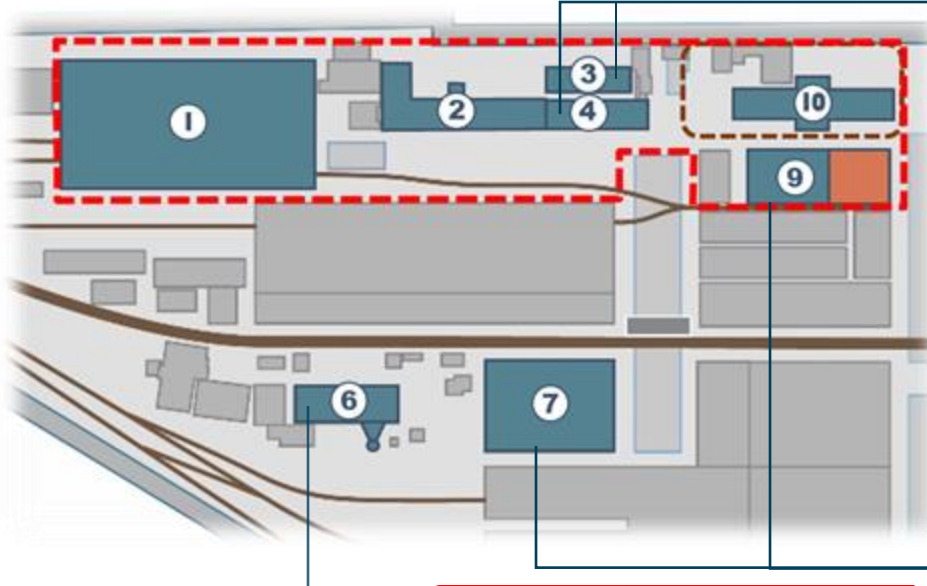


Plans of museum facilities

- On-site
- Utilization

2025

Opened



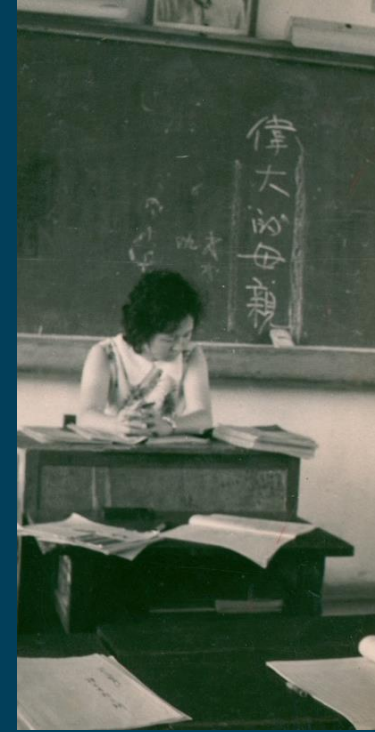
④ Materials Laboratory ● ●

The first floor will set up a children's space and a special exhibition for historical photos.



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 ● ●

2025

For reservation

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



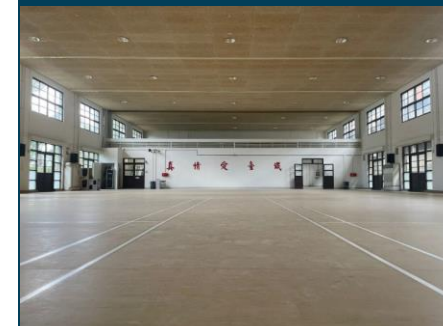
⑦ Forging Shop ● ●

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

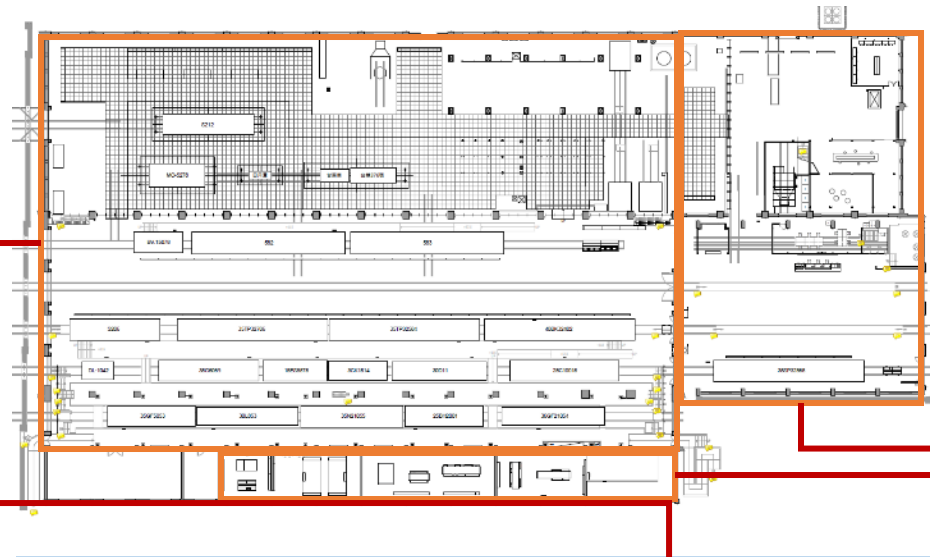


⑨ Main Hall ● ●

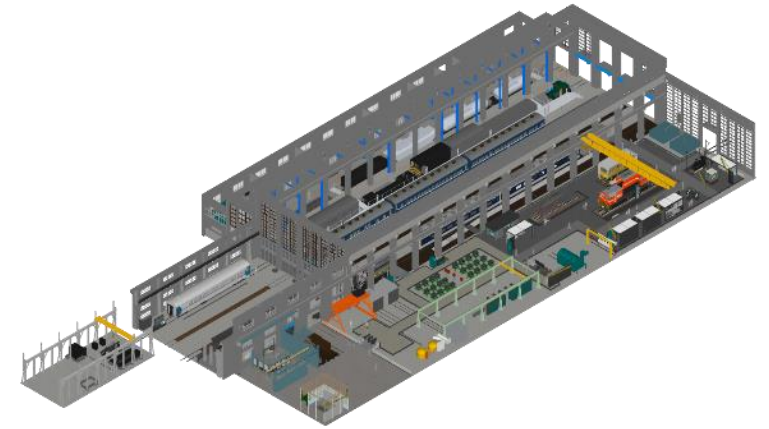
Continuing its original function, the site will be the main service facility in the museum for dining and events.



Diesel-Electric Locomotive Workshop



Bogie Cleaning Yard



Vehicles Display

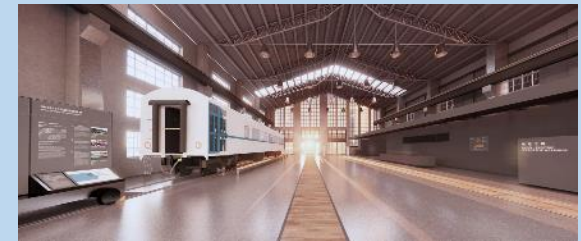
With the vision of a "living railway museum", we restore the tracks between shops, and 24 precious collected vehicles are selected for both static display and dynamic operation. After renovation and restoration, they will be transformed into a storyteller to lead us to railway technology, history, and culture, to continue the railway memory, and to co-create a new chapter of the story.



Monument Exhibition

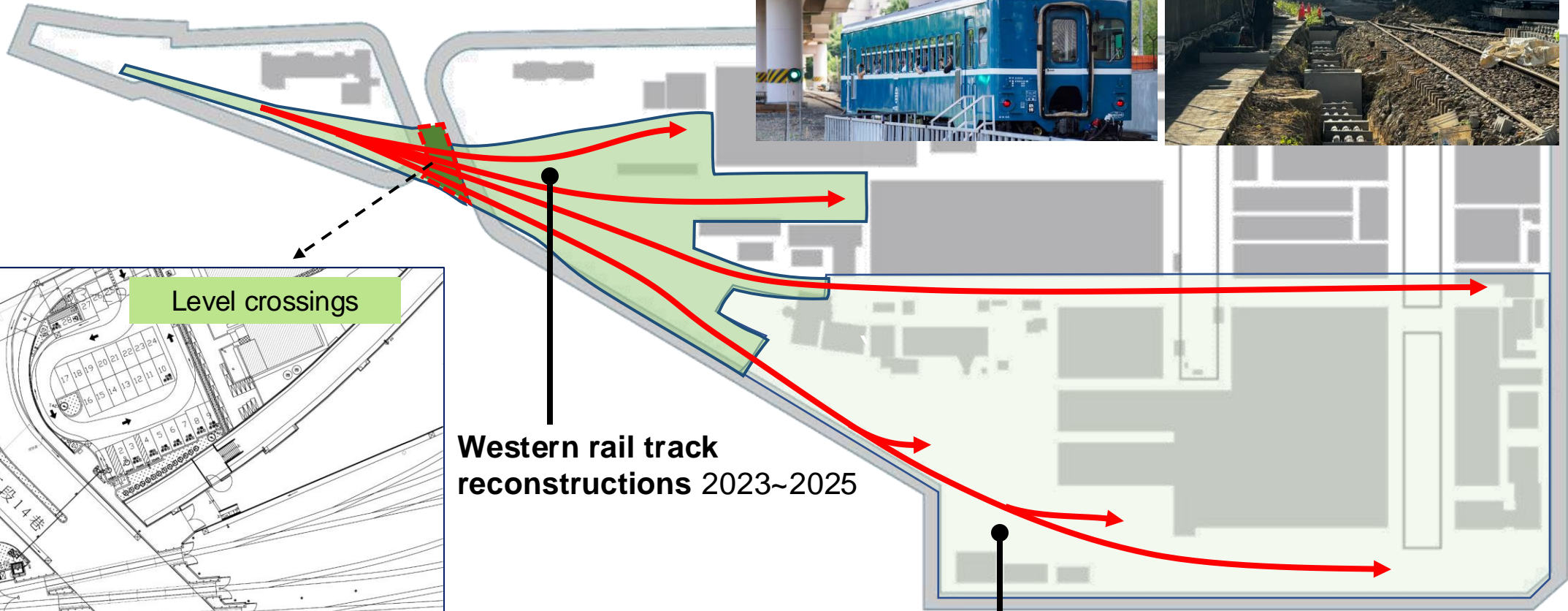


Main Hall





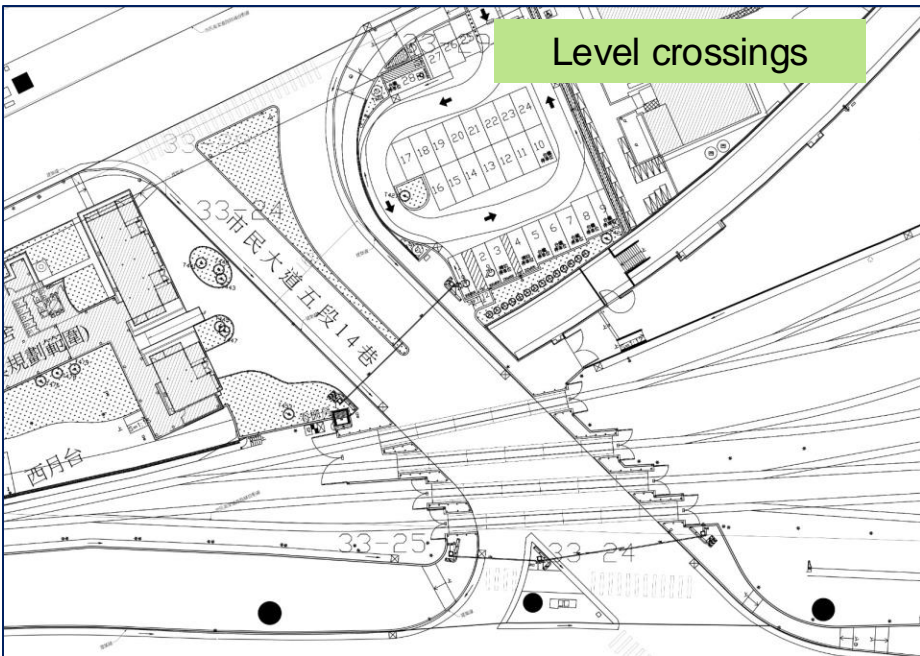
Rail track reconstructions



Level crossings

Western rail track reconstructions 2023~2025

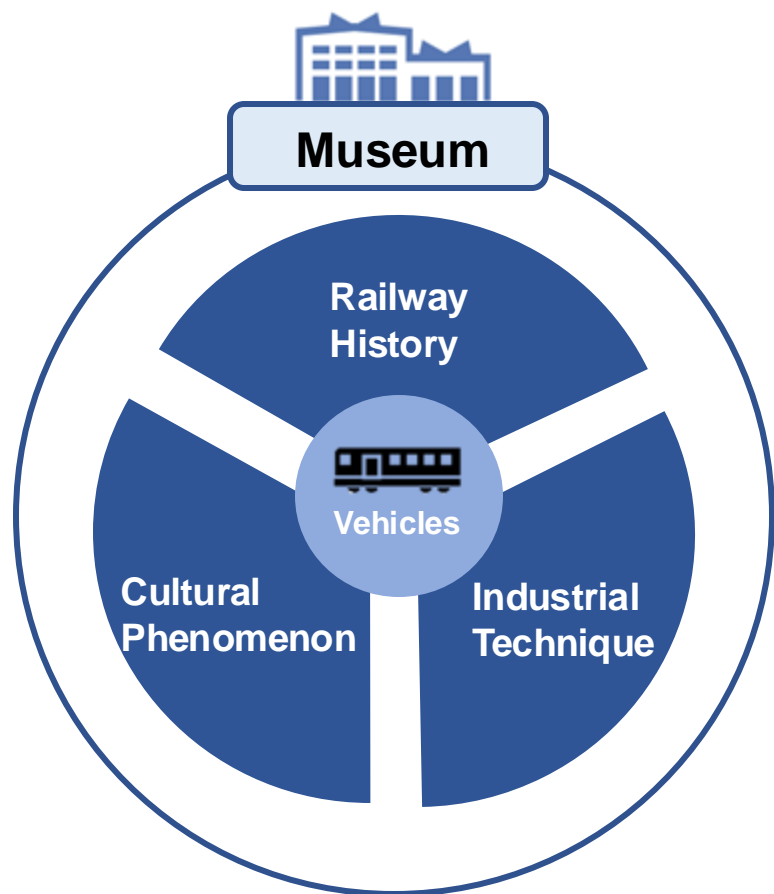
Eastern rail track reconstructions and landscape improvement 2024~2026





Our Vision

Based on collections and research, we are constructing a railway museum playing a leading role all over the world, aiming to demonstrate the interrelationship of Taiwan's railway history, cultural phenomena, and industrial technology, to establish a model for the preservation, maintenance, education and promotion of tangible and intangible railway cultural heritage, and to interpret the local context of railway development for international dialogues and exchanges.



History

Present the impact of railway development on politics, economy, techniques, humanities, and society in Taiwan.



Culture

Preserve and interpret the diversity of life experiences, collective memories, and cultural creations carried by passengers and cargo on the railway.



Technique

Revitalize the industrial heritage of the workshop for inheriting the evolution and transformation of railway technology, and creating cutting-edge railway culture.



Vehicle

As a carrier of history, culture, and technology, vehicles are a collection of specimens, but also the exhibition itself with narratives through specific themes.

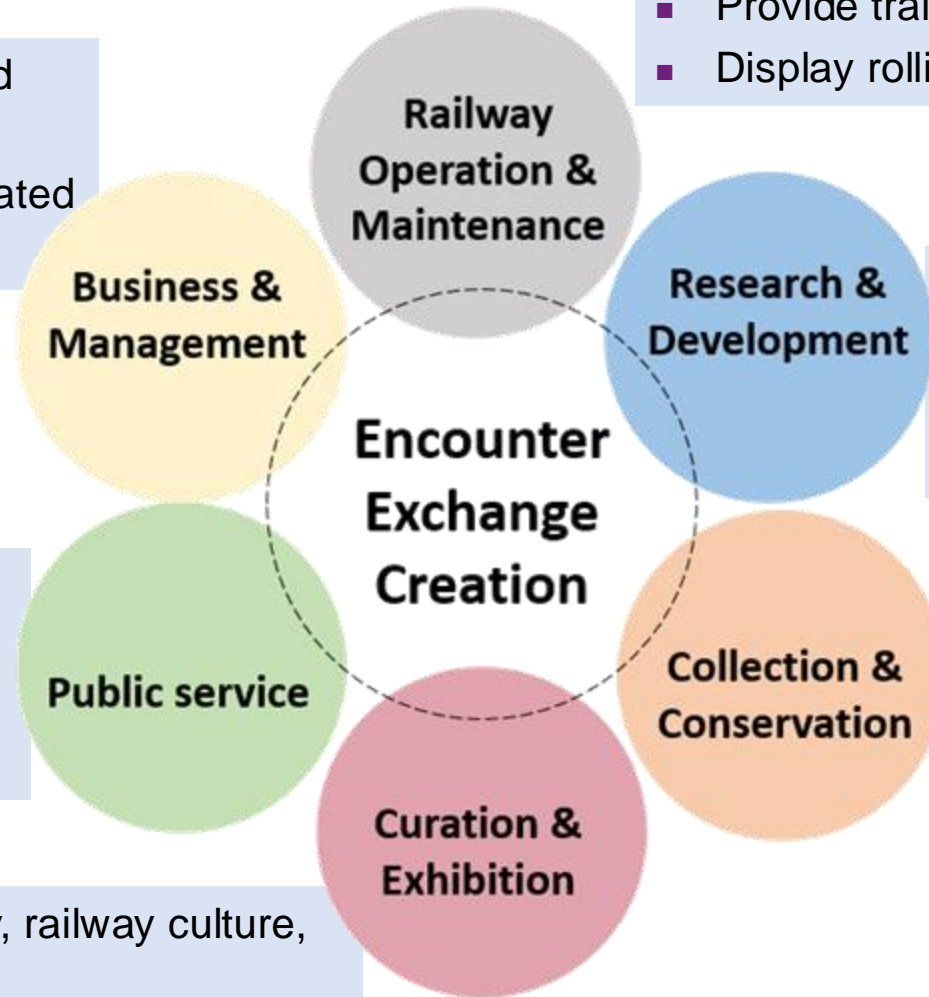


Future Mission

- 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.



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

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

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



Global engagement





Global engagement

Foreign collection



583 series Sleeper EMUs from Japan

In 2017, JR EAST (Japan) donated “The World’s First Sleeper EMU” to Taiwan. These cars will be represented to tell the story of the sleeper cars which were once operated in Taiwan.

BV-15000 brake van from Thailand

Originally produced in the workshop, it is a reflection of Taiwan's railway industry development, production techniques, and the economic exchanges of the times. The van was sold by Thailand in 2017 and transported to Taiwan in 2018.

International Forum



Forum on railway culture

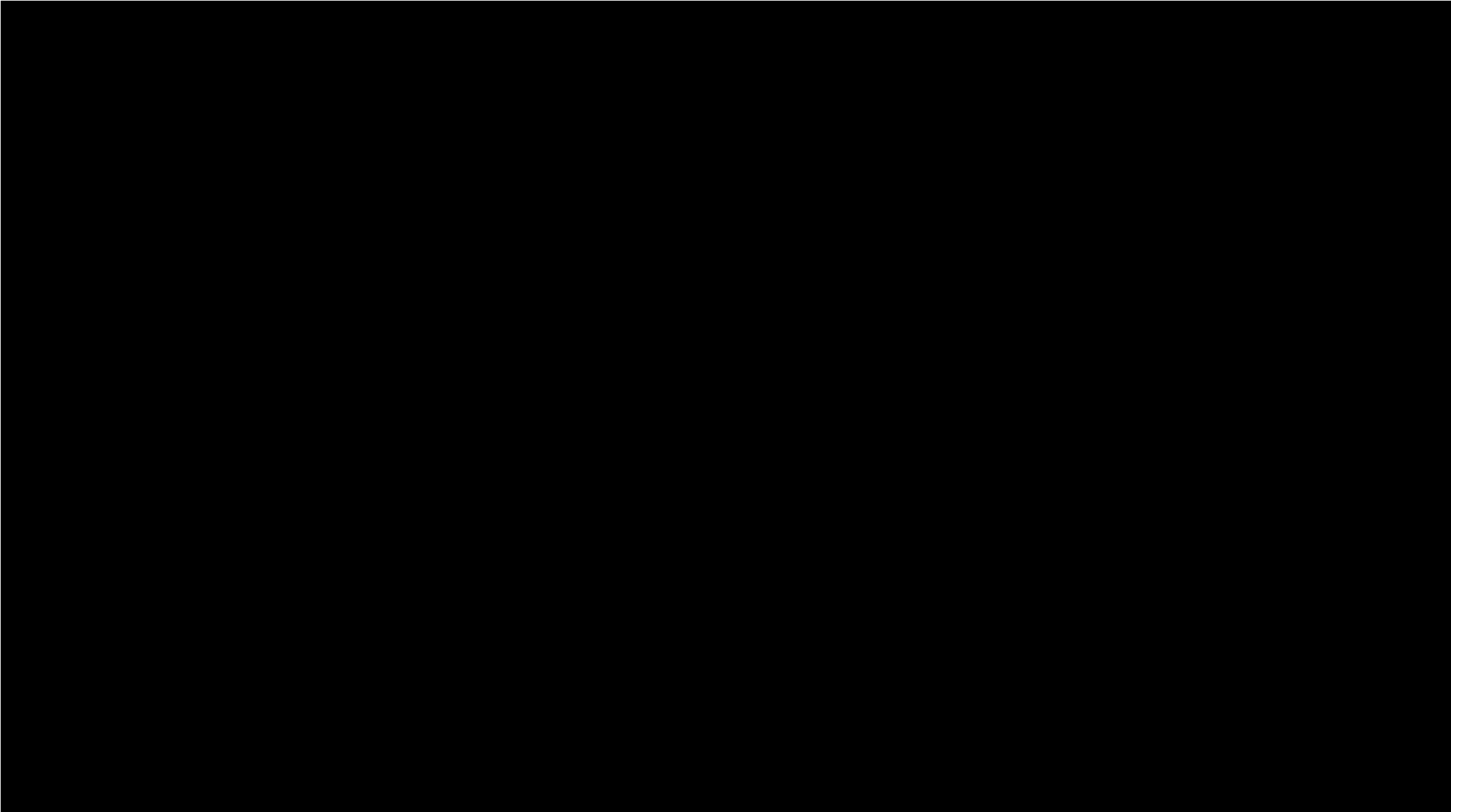
The annual forum on railway culture invited foreign speakers for the first time in 2023. The Director, deputy director, and chief curator of the railway museum in Omiya, Japan, have shared the experiences of the museum with the audience.

Overseas Exhibition



Exhibition on railway bento (lunchboxes)

Based on common experiences, we have curated a special exhibition about railway meals in Tokyo’s Taiwan Culture Center this year. In 2025, a more intact exhibition will be held in Omiya, which shows Taiwan’s soft power in railway culture overseas.



Thank you for your listening



國家鐵道博物館籌備處
Preparatory Office of National Railway Museum

