

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Historic Downtown Library to House New Museum

Amarillo, TX - The Santa Fe Historical Railway Museum (SFHRM) has announced plans to transform the historic library building on downtown Amarillo's Courthouse Square into a new museum and welcome center. This initiative, developed in partnership with Potter County, aims to preserve local history while creating a vibrant community space.

Scott Metelko, Executive Director of SFHRM, stated, "History is important to our organization. While working to build our railroad museum, we saw this opportunity and decided to pursue it."

The project's focus will be determined through a series of community meetings, allowing residents to shape the museum's direction. Potential themes include Amarillo's general history, Potter County's past, or the city's development as reflected in its courthouse buildings.

"We are planning a series of Community Meetings to determine the museum's focus," Metelko explained. "Attending these meetings is the best way to learn more about this project and have a voice in how we tell these stories."

The first community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium on the 11th floor of the Santa Fe building.

The proposed museum will occupy two floors, each approximately 2400 square feet. Initial plans include:

- Second floor: Historical exhibits, visitor information, and a gift shop featuring local artisans
- Lower floor: Restored to its original condition with public lounge areas and spaces for special events

This project echoes the building's rich history, which dates back to 1921 when it was established as Texas' fourth public library. The SFHRM aims to restore the building to its original condition, honoring its past while serving future generations of visitors and residents.

For more information or to RSVP for the community meeting, contact Scott Metelko at scott@amarillodepot.com.

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About Santa Fe Historical Railway Museum:

The Santa Fe Historical Railway Museum, Inc. of Amarillo, Texas, began as an effort to install a railroad history exhibit in the former Santa Fe General Office Building (GOB) in Amarillo in 2000. The organization has matured in recent years, recognizing the opportunity to develop a destination history attraction to showcase local culture, catalyze community, and spur neighborhood reinvestment. In December 2022, the group engaged an executive director and supporting staff. The museum is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in Texas with offices on the 11th floor of the historic Santa Fe GOB in Amarillo. The group maintains a website at amarillodepot.com.

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