

FAQs – Cincinnati Museum Center

Why does Union Terminal need repaired and restored?

In its 83 years, Union Terminal has experienced severe water damage, natural deterioration and delayed maintenance that, without repair, the building would be obsolete.

How long will the restoration take?

Prior to the passage of the sales tax in November 2014, extensive work was done to assess the full scope of work needed to repair and restore Union Terminal. Since the passage of the sales tax, design, probes and assessment work have continued. Construction will begin in July 2016 and is scheduled to conclude in late fall 2018.

What will be fixed?

This is a complete structural restoration of Union Terminal that will preserve the building and historic interior spaces, restore its iconic exterior and make the building more energy efficient and sustainable.

Will Cincinnati Museum Center or Union Terminal look different?

What guests will see is a building that looks very much the same, and that is the goal of the project – to restore and maintain an iconic structure that has been the background and setting of fond memories for generations. What guests will not see are the improvements that will prevent further water damage, deterioration and mechanical inefficiencies that endangered the building.

What will change about Cincinnati Museum Center?

The focus of the Union Terminal restoration project is on the exterior and interior structure, foundation, historic grounds and mechanical systems that are critical to Union Terminal's functionality and history. The project will not address exhibits, Cincinnati Museum Center is continuing to fundraise and prototype exhibits and upgrades that will enhance the guest's experience. Cincinnati Museum Center is always actively improving and adding exhibit components in each of the three museums and will continue to develop those improvements and additions through the restoration project.

Where is everything in the museums going?

Some items and artifacts will move to our Geier Collections & Research Center for storage through the restoration period, including a majority of our manuscript and photograph collections. However, you will see many of your favorite artifacts throughout the community. Cincinnati Museum Center is working with partners around the region to display historic and scientific objects, bringing the Museum Center to you. Our staff of experts and educators are currently developing programming to supplement the accompanying text and graphics with these pieces. Check back for a map to see where you can check out your favorite Museum Center icons.

What will be closing during the restoration?

The Cincinnati History Museum and Museum of Natural History & Science will temporarily close June 30. The Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX Theater will close temporarily on July 5, 2016.

What can I do if I visit Cincinnati Museum Center during the restoration?

The Duke Energy Children's Museum is scheduled to remain open throughout the repair and restoration of Union Terminal, with new additions like the Inside the Grin exhibit opening April 30, 2016. We will also continue to bring blockbuster exhibits to Cincinnati in our special exhibits gallery, beginning with *Da Vinci – The Genius* on May 20, 2016.

Our popular scout, birthday and general programs, along with Museum Camps, will be coming to you! Stay tuned for more information about when and where our programs, classes, events and exhibits will be coming to a community near you.

Why should I renew my membership?

We value our Members and the support they have given us over the past 25 years. We want to continue to share great content and give our Members the opportunity to have an incredible experience and learning opportunity. We are offering our Family Membership for just \$99 (over \$30 off the regular price!).

Your Cincinnati Museum Center Membership is an incredible value not only because of the experiences inside Cincinnati Museum Center, but also the partner benefits. The Duke Energy Children’s Museum will remain open and is always free to Members and Members will continue to get exclusive discounts on special exhibits. Your Membership also includes reciprocal benefits for museums included in the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), the Time Travelers history network and, for Family Premium Members, the Association of Children’s Museums. We have also partnered with institutions in the region to offer exclusive benefits to Cincinnati Museum Center Members during this project. These partners and benefits can be found at www.cincymuseum.org/join/benefits.

Will my membership be put on pause during the restoration?

No, your membership will continue to be active and expire one year from purchase. You will continue to have access to the Duke Energy Children’s Museum and will continue to receive discounts on special exhibits such as *The Art of the Brick* (closing May 1) and *Da Vinci – The Genius* (opening May 20). We are also working with regional partners to provide additional member benefits. These partners and benefits can be found at www.cincymuseum.org/join/benefits.

Didn’t find the answer you were looking for? [Click here](#) to ask us your question.