

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

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When Government/Non-Profit Partnerships Work The New York Transit Museum opens its newly renovated store at Grand Central Terminal

Images available for media use upon request:



Image: Original Transit Museum Store Circa 1993
Image credit: New York Transit Museum

New York Transit Museum Store originally opened in Grand Central Terminal in 1993, using used and surplus New York City Transit building materials. For three years it occupied vacated bank space on the Main concourse prior to the renovation of Grand Central Terminal (1996 – 1998). When the Store moved to its current location in 1999, the same fixtures were used and after 17 years of continual use, the fixtures were nearing the end of their useful life. The Transit Museum Store has been one of the key components enabling the Transit Museum to fulfill the mandate to become self sustaining.

Image: The former Transit Museum Store in Grand Central Terminal. Circa 1/19/2010
Image credit: New York Transit Museum

Fixtures from the original store were re-purposed when the Museum opened its new location following the renovation of Grand Central Terminal in 1999, this time adding a 1000-sf gallery to showcase changing exhibitions produced by the Transit Museum, and driving visitors to its Brooklyn flagship location. After another 10 years of heavy Grand Central foot traffic, the store began to show wear and tear. The Transit Museum approached the graduate program in exhibition design at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and suggested that a re-design of the Museum store become a project for students in the program.



Image: New York Transit Museum Store Circa. 3/18/2010
Image credit: New York Transit Museum

This is the third iteration of a Transit Museum store at Grand Central. Ten students, under the direction of Brenda Cowan, Assistant Professor and Chair for Graduate Exhibition Design, prepared proposals that were displayed at the Museum's Grand Central Gallery. A committee of FIT and Museum staff ultimately selected the design of Cuong Nguyen. After refinement and customization of the design under supervision of Metro North architects, design drawings were finalized and construction began after closing the Museum's popular Holiday Train Show in January 2010, with an on-schedule opening of the store on March 4, 2010.

