



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** 801 S. 10th St., Omaha, NE 68108

**Phone:** 402-444-5071

**Website:** DurhamMuseum.org

### Admission:

Adults \$11  
 Seniors (62+), \$8  
 Children (3-12), \$7  
 Members and children 2 & under are FREE

### Hours:

Tuesday: 10AM-8PM  
 Wednesday-Saturday: 10AM-5PM  
 Sunday: 1-5PM

Closed Mondays and major holidays. Please check our website at [DurhamMuseum.org](http://DurhamMuseum.org) for expanded summer and holiday hours.



Enter The Durham Museum and immediately you'll feel connected to another place in time. Housed in Omaha's historic former Union Station, you'll find permanent exhibits that explore our region's vibrant history, temporary exhibitions that spotlight fascinating global topics and many entertaining, educational activities. The Durham blends the contemporary with the nostalgic, making it a place where generations truly connect.

## THE STORY OF UNION STATION

Union Pacific's \$3.5 million Union Station was designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood as one of the nation's first art deco train stations. The station opened in 1931 and was immediately heralded as an architectural gem. Union Station was at its peak during World War II, when more than 10,000 passengers passed through each day.

Today, this rare jewel has been transformed from top to bottom into one of the nation's most vibrant and beautiful hands-on museums. The museum is named in honor of Omaha philanthropists Margre and Charles Durham, who played an instrumental role in restoring the facility.

## EXHIBITIONS

The Durham Museum



Smithsonian Institution  
 Affiliations Program

is proud to serve as a steward of our region's heritage. Omaha's past is rich in American Indian culture as well as the pioneer spirit found in the Lewis and Clark expedition and the Mormon movement west. One of the most significant reasons that Omaha developed into a thriving metropolis was its location as the eastern terminus of the transcontinental railroad. Visitors can relive the region's vibrant history through our permanent exhibits that focus on the many generations that made Omaha what it is today. The Durham is the heartland's first museum to be affiliated

with the Smithsonian Institution and it also has strong ties with the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Chicago's Field Museum. Through relationships like these, the museum is able to introduce several new exhibitions each year that explore topics ranging from history and culture to science and industry. There is always something new at The Durham!

## EVENTS

The Durham Museum hosts numerous special programs throughout the year. Your family can enjoy lectures, workshops, concerts, summer camps and take part in special events complementing the temporary exhibition schedule.

As the home to Omaha's largest indoor Christmas tree, The Durham Museum's Christmas at Union Station is one of the region's most cherished traditions. During this season-long celebration, The Durham Museum hosts many exceptional events including the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Ethnic Holiday Festival, Holiday Concert Series, Family Nights with Santa and Noon Year's Eve Celebration.

No matter when you visit, you can claim a seat at our old-fashioned 1931 Soda Fountain and enjoy a traditional milkshake, sundae or phosphate.

## UPPER LEVEL

### 1. Adah & Leon Millard Foundation Library

The Millard Library and Resource Center offers a comprehensive collection of books related to the history of Omaha and the West. Open by appointment. Please call 402-444-5071.

### 2. Gilbert M. & Martha H. Hitchcock Museum Shop

Discover hard-to-find railroad memorabilia, educational children's books and toys and gifts perfect for the history buffs on your shopping list.

**3. Suzanne & Walter Scott Great Hall** – Admire the beautifully restored art deco architecture of Union Station's main waiting room. Eavesdrop on the lives of people who traveled through the station in the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

**4. Soda Fountain & Candy Counter** – Your visit won't be complete without a trip to the authentic 1931 soda fountain offering sundaes, malts and old-fashioned phosphates. Be sure to stop by the Candy Counter to enjoy nostalgic candies and treats.

**5. Swanson Gallery** – The elegant Swanson Gallery was once the Hayden House Restaurant, the grand dining room in Union Station. Today, it is used for special events and can be rented for private functions.

### 6. Dr. C.C. & Mabel L. Criss Conference Center

The Criss Conference Center can be rented for private functions and includes its own catering area and multi-media equipment.

**7. Concourse Gallery** – This area explores the building's architecture and the history of passenger travel at Union Station.

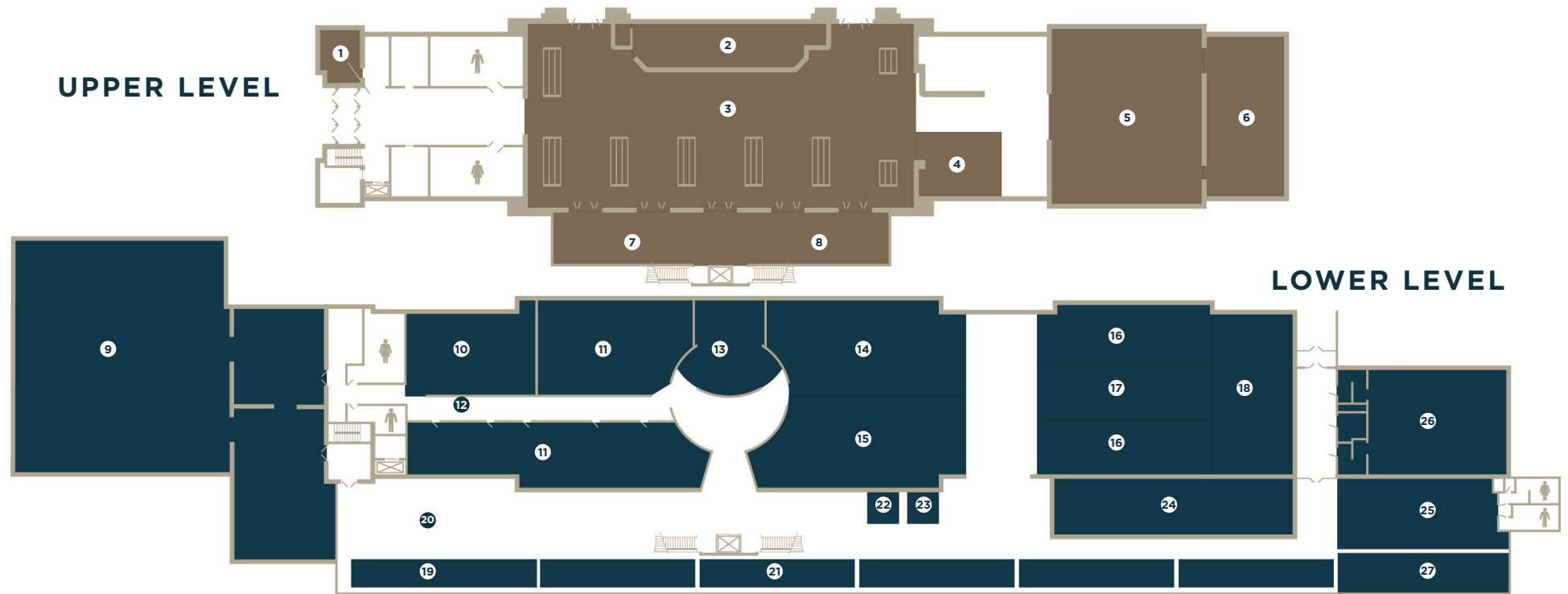
**8. Lives of Tradition** – This series of 20 photographs from Charles W. Guildner focuses on the lives of people living and working in the heartland of rural America. Compiled over 17 years, *Lives of Tradition* documents this characteristic way of life.

## LOWER LEVEL

### 9. Velde Gallery of American History

The 12,500 square-foot Velde Gallery of American History is the location for The Durham's temporary exhibitions, brought to the museum through partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution, Library of Congress, National Archives, Chicago's Field Museum and others.

## UPPER LEVEL



**10. Photo Archive** – The Photo Archive contains more than 1,000,000 images relating to the history of Omaha with emphasis on nine special collections. The archive is open to the public Tuesday – Friday 10:30AM-3:30PM or online at anytime at [DurhamMuseum.org](http://DurhamMuseum.org). For information call 402-444-5087.

**11. Educational Classrooms** – Children explore our world in unique educational settings through classes and scouting programs that serve thousands of children annually.

**12. Education Alley** – Education Alley is home to the museum's period classrooms and temporary exhibitions from the museum's collection and our community partners.

**13. Mutual of Omaha Theater** – Renovated in 2009, the Mutual of Omaha Theater is a great place to start your visit. Enjoy a film presentation showing the development of Omaha from the mid-1800s to today.

**14. Baright Home & Family Gallery** – See how families lived in Omaha from the 1800s through the 1950s.

### 15. Bishop Clarkson Community Gallery

Explore architecture, education, medical care, religion, immigration, parks and the arts in Omaha's development.

**16. Omaha at Work Gallery** – Discover why Omaha was founded and how the city grew.

### 17. Trans-Mississippi Centennial Gallery

Come explore the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition and learn about its lasting impact on the city.

**18. Byron Reed Gallery** – Explore one of the top rare coin, document and book collections in the country assembled in the late 19th century by Omaha real estate agent Byron Reed.

**19. Steam Locomotive Stations** – The steam locomotive stations are hands-on pieces that demonstrate some of the key technologies steam engines used to help the railroad expand westward.

**20. Trish & Dick Davidson Gallery** – Explore the history of transportation and commerce throughout the years.

**21. Harriman Family Line** – Stop inside the train cars to experience railroad travel – in the steam engine, Pullman car, lounge car and caboose.

**22. Buffett Grocery Store** – Shop for groceries in the Buffett Grocery Store. This exhibit features a replica storefront of the original that opened in 1915.

**23. Drew's Antique Shop** – The exhibit features various artifacts from the museum's collection.

**24. Model Trains** – Don't miss the 100-foot-long O-scale model train layout featuring Durham Junction and several interactive stations.

**25. Bekins Van & Storage Company** – Explore the history of an early Omaha family-based business. This exhibit includes an original delivery truck, photographs and more.

**26. Stanley & Dorothy Truhlsen Lecture Hall** – Opened in 2007, the hall combines the museum's architectural history with distance learning technology to bring intriguing presenters from across the country to Omaha.

**27. Kimmel Orchard** – The exhibition commemorates the history of the Kimmel Orchard in Nebraska City, using a beautiful hand-painted mural, a two-story farmhouse facade and replica apple tree.