

History of The Transportation Museum

At a young age, Andrew was fascinated by transportation. Every few months, he would go into the SamTrans building to collect all of the new schedules, for each route. Whenever Andrew arrived home after a vacation, many more schedules and maps were added to the garage, from wherever he had just visited.

Like many kids, Andrew loved Thomas The Train Engine. He had a large set and played with the trains often. He played with matchbox cars, too, and later huge trucks from one of his relatives. When The Pacific Bus Museum had a tour around the Peninsula, on an old bus, looking at old bus stops, Andrew and his family went on the tour and loved it.

When Andrew was 5, he opened the museum so he could share his knowledge and love of transportation with others. That first year, the museum was open for 2 days. The next year, and in years after, the museum was only open for 1 day every year.

In those early years, the "exhibits" consisted of a display of SamTrans, Caltrain, VTA, and BART schedules laid out all over the living room sofa. "I remember waking up in the morning on the day of the museum, super excited, and eating cereal as I was laying out the schedules because I just couldn't wait to set up," says Andrew. There were games and snacks for guests, too.

Two of these games, Slot Car Racing and the Eyeball Toss, were very popular with guests. The games appeared at the museum for many years. At the 6th Annual Transportation Museum in the summer of 2013, the exhibits increased quality. There was an exhibit on Morse Code and the Titanic, Baseball and Transportation, and different types of bridges.

Starting in 2011, Andrew began taking annual Amtrak trips with his dad. The first year, they rode Amtrak for 11 hours to get to Los Angeles, spent one day there, and rode the train back home. The next year, when they traveled to Fresno, there was a car show that they attended, securing Andrew's love for automobiles, particularly the Cadillac Escalade.

The following year, after a visit to London caused Andrew to love the London Underground, the main exhibit was on London Transport. Guests could learn about CCTV cameras, view collectible items, build their own tunnel, and more. Guests could also walk through a room decorated as an Amtrak Dining Car, complete with Amtrak napkins, tablecloths, and a menu "taken" from the Coast Starlight train.

In 2015, the museum moved from the summer to September, and took place at the local elementary school because the exhibits had outgrown Andrew's house. For the first time ever, there were exhibits by other people. Brandan D. had an exhibit where guests could simulate flying an airplane, and Ethan C. displayed his futuristic LEGO transportation creations. The museum had record attendance—over 100 people in one day!

In 2016, there was an interactive component in each exhibit. Guests could read the exhibits or just take in the interactive parts (tasting ice cream, driving a remote-controlled bus, flying a plane, building a boat out of LEGOs). There will certainly be a 10th Annual Transportation Museum, and it will likely be held in September 2017. Check back for updates!