

Friends of the Aiken Railroad Depot (FARD)

Overview

FARD received its 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status on October 17, 2011.

FARD presently has 21 board members.

FARD presently has 5 city of Aiken employees as ex-officio board members.

FARD rebuilt the depot as a train museum and visitors center and gave it to the City of Aiken.

FARD supports the Depot's exhibits and events through volunteers and funding.

FARD is currently restoring a third railroad car.

FARD is currently working on expanding exhibits both inside and outside the depot building.

The railroad has had a tremendous impact on the development of our nation as well as on all our lives. The railroad is also an important part of Aiken's history. In the early 1800's, the longest railroad in the world ran from Charleston to Hamburg, the present site of North Augusta. Railroad engineers laid out the town of Aiken named for the railroad president at the time. Many visitors and future residents of Aiken came by rail and sometimes in their own private railroad cars. This history is displayed in the depot and in the restored railroad cars.

The depot adds to the quality of life of Aiken citizens by providing opportunities for education, recreation, and volunteering and by adding to the local economy. The depot receives over 14,000 visitors per year.

Additional information is available at aikenrailroaddepot.org.

From: ts@atlanticbb.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 4:42 PM
To: Teesha Trapp
Subject: Friends of the Aiken Railroad Depot

Teesha,

The Friends of the Aiken Railroad Depot is in the early stages of increasing and improving the exhibits located at the City of Aiken's Visitors Center and Train Museum. The total cost of the project is estimated to be around \$1,400,000. We have \$1,100,000 on hand. We are requesting \$300,000 which would enable us to complete the project.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Tim Simmons

President

Friends of the Aiken Railroad Depot