



## **SAN JOSE TROLLEY HISTORICAL RESTORATION PROJECT**

### **The Project**

The California Trolley and Railroad Corporation, a historical restoration project, is a private, non-profit organization with a Board of Directors composed of local business and community leaders. The corporation was founded in 1982 to fund and direct the restoration of vintage streetcars. The restoration effort was made possible through donations from the community and the hard work of volunteers

### **The Restoration Process**

The trolley restoration process, under the supervision of Master Car Builder Fred Bennett, is complex and required extensive knowledge of all the systems related to trolleys - electrical, mechanical and structural. Each car took over one year of full-time volunteer work to be completely restored. Old parts were saved when possible, and new parts were designed and built when necessary. Special attention was paid to the historic characteristics of cars, which have undergone many changes during their lifetimes. When fully restored, the cars are better than new, with hand-polished wood interiors and fresh coats of brightly colored paint.

### **The Volunteers**

Talented volunteers are vital to the restoration process. Volunteers committed to saving the historic trolleys come to work on the project very week. More than 300 volunteers have logged over 90,000 volunteer hours already. After 100 hours of work, volunteers qualify for a unique t-shirt bearing the Trolley Corporation logo. Potential volunteers can join the trolley family by calling (408) 293-BARN.

### **The Trolley Barn**

The spacious 6,000-square-foot shelter, designed by Pierre Prodis, A.I.A. of San Jose, was specially built to house the trolleys during restoration. A heated carpenter shop is located adjacent to the Barn where woodworking projects are done. The Barn replicates similar buildings of the 19th century trolley era, and was designed to reflect the same period of time as other buildings on the San Jose Historical Museum grounds. Trolley restoration projects continue at the Trolley Barn. The Trolley Barn has become a permanent part of the museum.

### **Service**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) operates and maintains four restored trolleys. When in service, the cars run on light rail tracks serving a 4.1-mile route through downtown San Jose.

### **The Trolleys**

Volunteers at the Trolley Barn have restored seven vintage cars. VTA maintains the following four trolleys:

- Car 1 ran in Sacramento from 1903 to 1906, and then ran in Santa Cruz from 1906 to 1923
- Car 73 ran in San Jose between 1912 and 1934
- Car 531 is from Melbourne, Australia
- Car 2001 is from Milan, Italy

**(continued)**

### **The “CLIMB ON BOARD” Campaign**

The trolley restoration project is always in need of donations. Donations of money, services and materials are necessary for completion of the project. Approximately \$500,000 is still needed to complete the trolley restoration. Major trolley sponsors are Heritage Cablevision, San Jose Mercury News, Metro-A Trust Fund, Ray Collishaw Corporation, and the Silicon Valley Financial Center/Fairmont Hotel. Each of these donors contributed \$150,000 to the San Jose Trolley Corporation.

### **Donations**

Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to:

California Trolley and Railroad Corporation  
San Jose Historical Museum, Kelley Park  
1600 Senter Road  
San Jose, CA 95112

### **Trolley Barn Information**

Volunteers	(408) 293-BARN
Fundraising	(408) 293-2276
Museum	(408) 287-2290

### **Trolley Barn Hours**

Thursday through Monday	9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday	Closed