



# THE OLD CPR TRAIN STATION

## Public Engagement Survey Results

In early 2024, the Golden and District Historical Society issued an open survey to stakeholders and community members in an effort to understand how the community felt about Golden's Old CPR Train Station. This survey will help the Golden Museum and Archives, operated by the Historical Society, determine the future of this building. This document presents the results of the survey.



Brittany Newman, Executive Director  
Golden and District Historical Society  
[Museum.golden@gmail.com](mailto:Museum.golden@gmail.com)

## Introduction

Throughout the years there has been a lot of discussion about what to do with the old Golden CPR Station. Built in 1904, the Golden Station was once the transportation hub of the community, with the Canadian Pacific Railway bringing in supplies, people, and even livestock from across the country. The Station was retired in 1986 because passenger services had been discontinued by the CPR. The building was stripped of all useful equipment by the CPR, and was rented to VIA Rail for a number of years as passenger seating and washroom facilities. In 1988, VIA Rail built a smaller ticket house, now being used by the Kicking Horse Chamber of Commerce. In order to make room for the new ticket house, the Station needed to be moved.

In 1988, the Town of Golden approved \$30,000 to save the historic Station building from CPR bulldozers, due to pressure from the residents of Golden. A team stripped all excess equipment and heavy materials. The building was moved across the river in April of 1988, where it sat east of Kumsheen Park for a number of years.

In 1992, after some sensationalized conflicting ideas regarding the future use of the Station, the Town of Golden sold the Station to the Golden and District Historical Society for a dollar, along with a parcel of land for it sit on. In September, the station was moved closer to the museum, waiting for a foundation to be built, before shifting its current resting place.

Since its move, 30 years ago, the Station has been at the center of a number of discussions regarding what to do with it. Plans have been drawn up over the years, but without the capacity to raise funds to see these plans through to fruition, the Station has received only enough attention to keep it in stable condition. However, the Golden and District Historical Society recognizes its significance and potential, and in the last ten years the Station has received a new roof, been fitted with an accessibility ramp, received some new doors and windows, and has been highlighted as a priority in our newest strategic plan.

But the question still remains: what should we do with it?

## About the Golden & District Historical Society

The Golden & District Historical Society is committed to preserving, promoting, and presenting the diverse history of Golden and its neighbouring communities. Our guiding principles are to inspire curiosity, involve our community, and share our story. The Golden & District Historical Society is the governing body of the Golden Museum and Archives. It comprises of seven Board Members, responsible for supervising the Executive Director of the Golden Museum. The museum has two full-time permanent employees and one part-time permanent employee.

## Purpose of Engagement

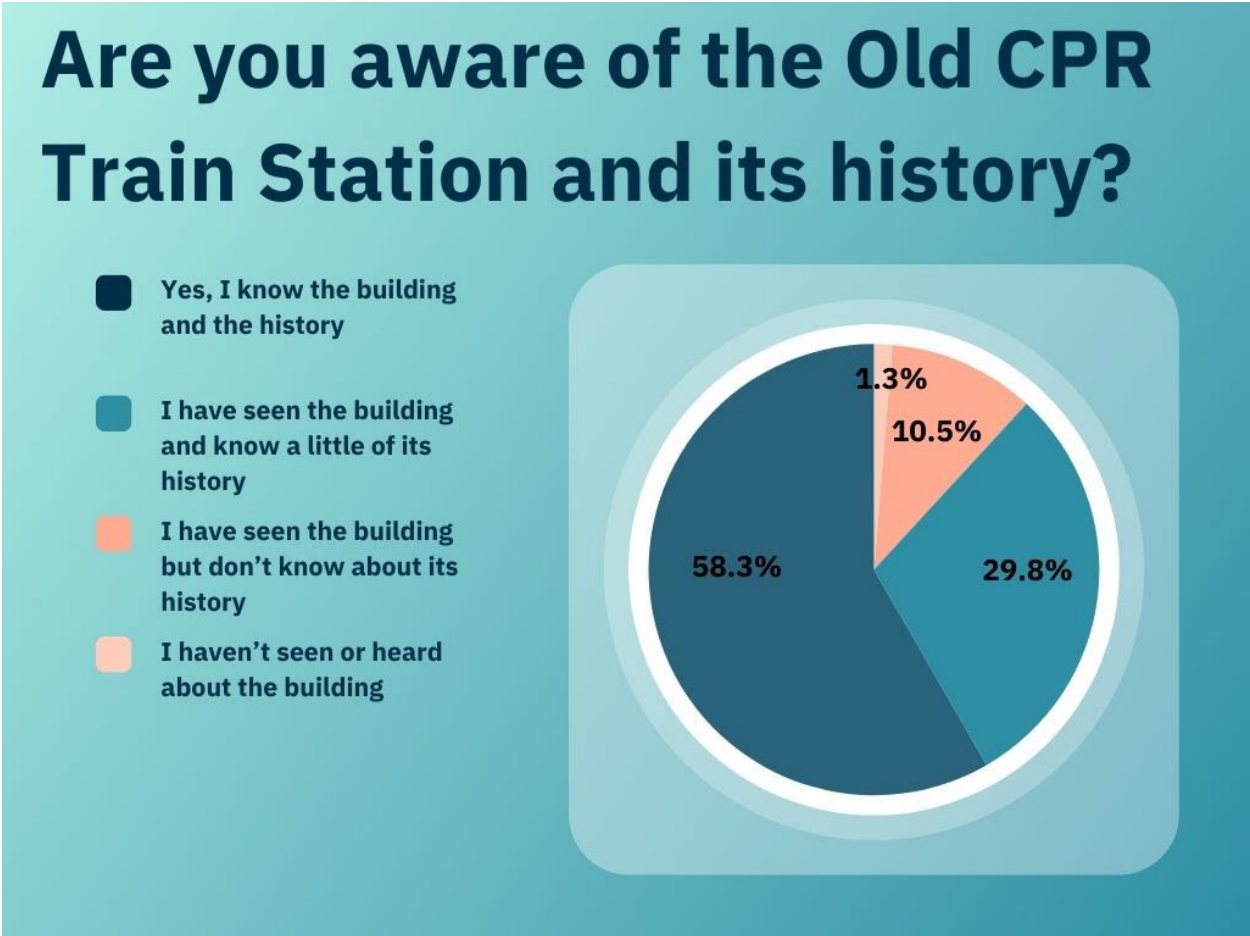
Previous discussions with the Town of Golden building inspector, and various community groups have highlighted the fact that there is a lot of passion and interest surrounding the CPR

Station. This interest, coupled with the Golden and District Historical Society’s understanding of the urgency, inspired us to seek the community’s opinion regarding the future of the Station. Upon researching the current use of other stations similar to Golden’s, a survey was crafted. The survey included all feasible options based on the capacity of the Golden Museum and Archives, zoning bylaws, and the likelihood of success.

Ultimately, the survey was created to gauge the interest and support the community would have in a project surrounding the restoration of the Station. Because it is a community building, owned by a community-oriented organization, we wanted to ensure that we were creating a space that both useful and wanted by the community. Our most successful projects are the ones that people are passionate about, and we wanted to ensure we encapsulated that passion.

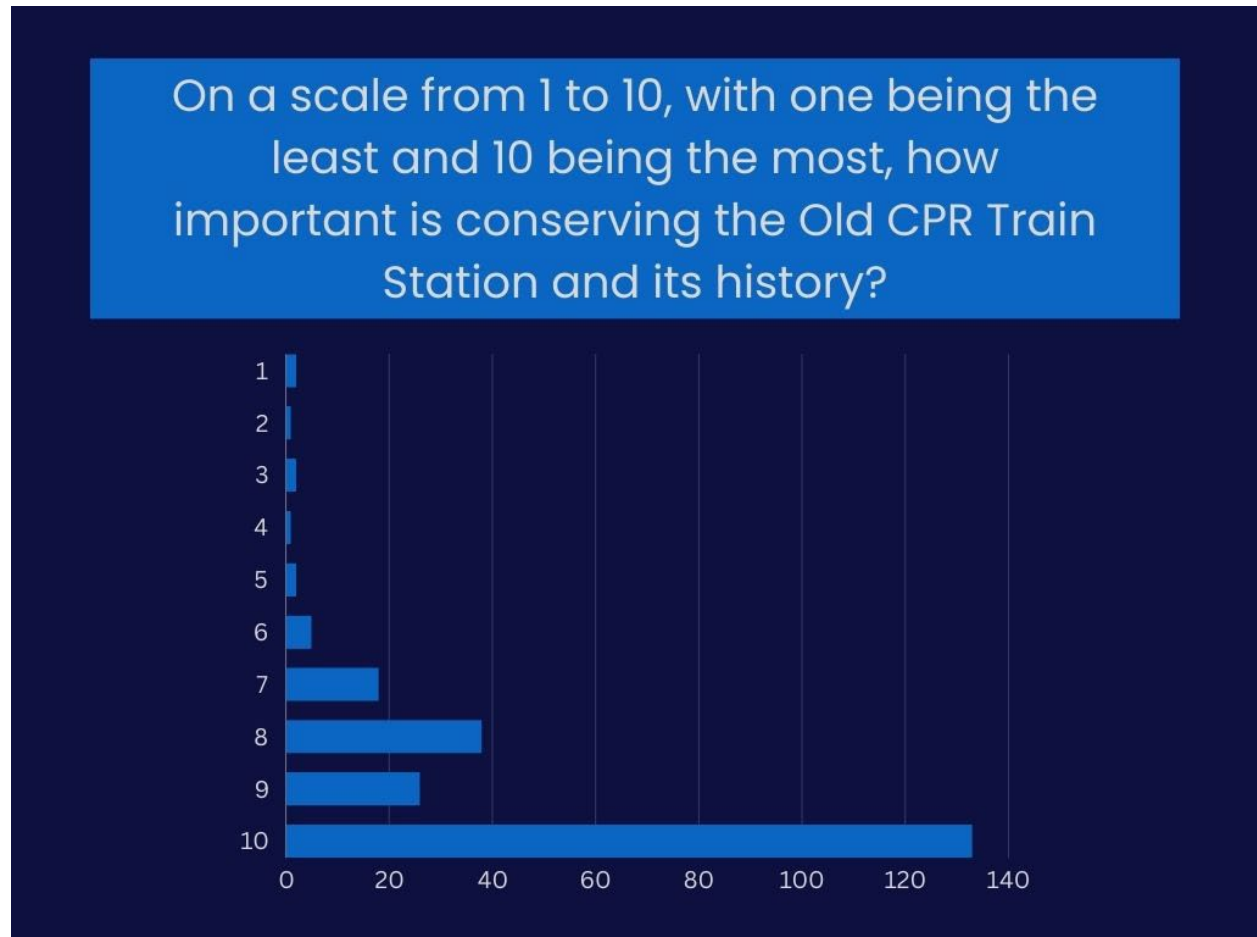
### Engagement Results

**Question 1: Are you aware of the Old CPR Train Station and its history?**



The majority of survey takers answered that they were aware of the Station and were aware of the history or some of the history. Only three people had not seen or heard about the building, while 24 had seen the building but knew nothing about the history.

**Question 2: On a scale from 1 to 10, with one being the least and 10 being the most, how important is conserving the Old CPR Train Station and its history?**

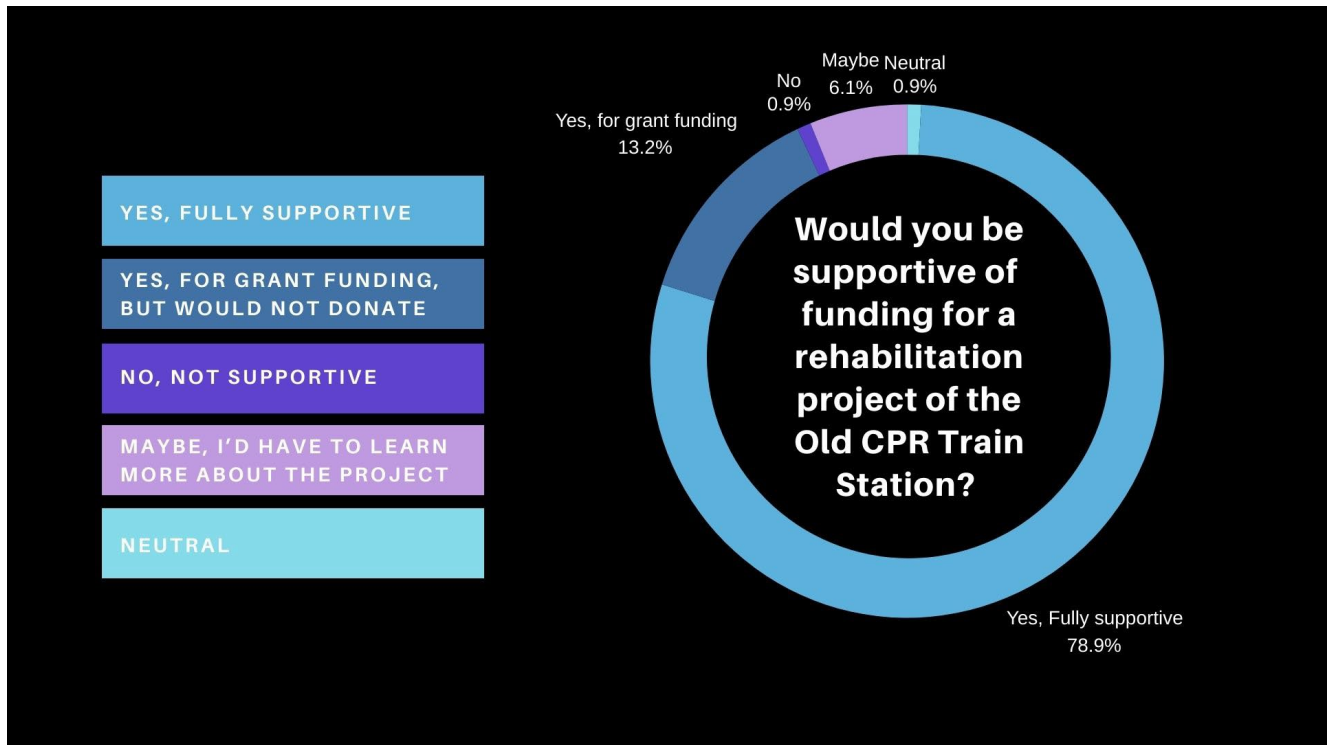


Of the 228 survey takers, 86.5% rated conservation the Station as high importance (8 or higher), 11.5% felt it was of medium importance (4-7), and only 2% felt it was of low importance (3 or below).

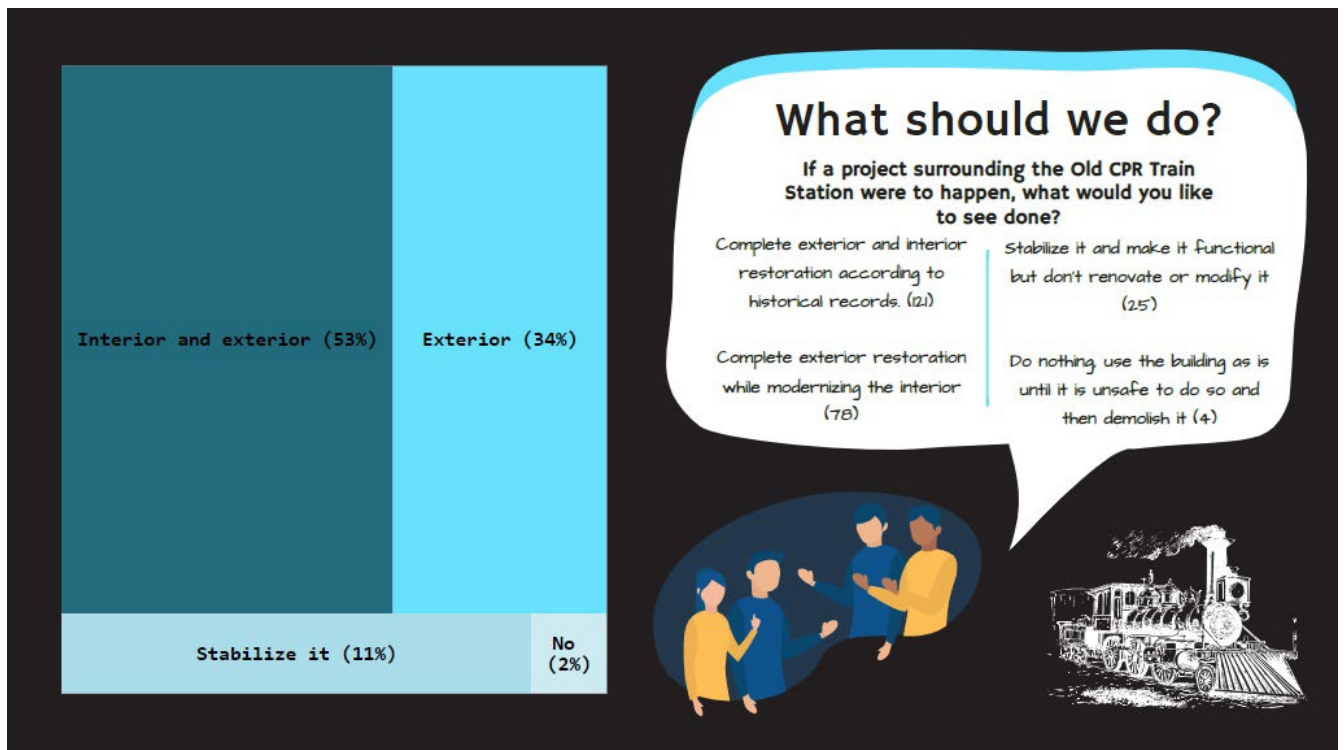
**Question 3: Would you be supportive of the Golden Museum and Archives seeking funding, through grants and fundraising, for a rehabilitation project of the Old CPR Train Station? \*This project would not be funded through local taxes\***

There were 180 responders that indicated that they would be fully supportive of the Golden Museum and Archives funding a project surrounding the rehabilitation, including individual donations. Thirty people indicated that, while they would be supportive of grant funding, they would not donate to the project. Fourteen people indicated they would need to know more about future projects before offering any sort of support, two people indicated they would not be supportive of funding, and two people responded as neutral.





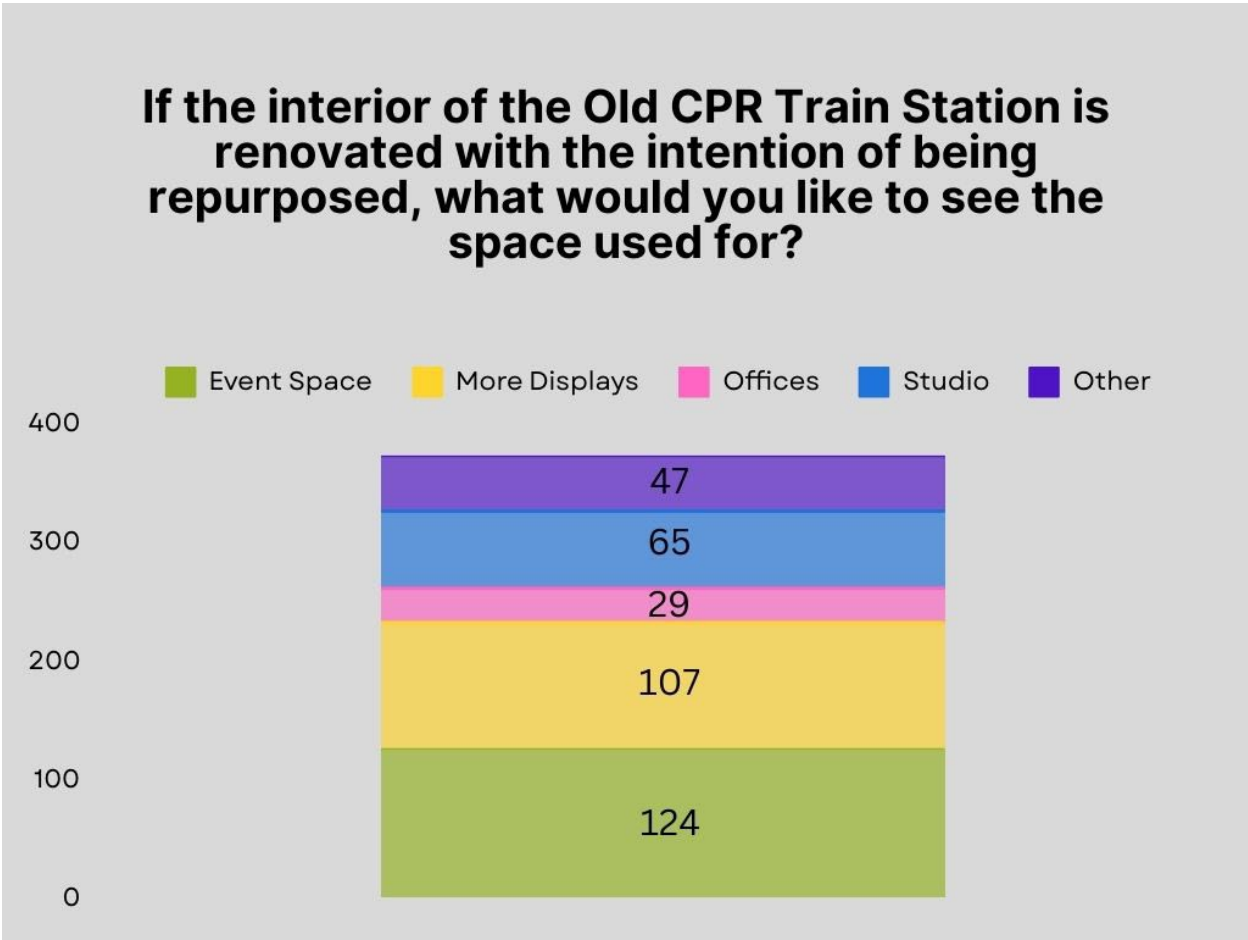
**Question 4: If a project surrounding the Old CPR Train Station were to happen, what would you like to see done?**



The majority of people (121) replied that they would like a complete exterior and interior restoration according to historical records. The next highest number of people (78) voted that

they would like to see the buildings exterior restored, while modernizing the interior. Twenty-five people felt that stabilizing the building so that it does not deteriorate and only doing modifications to make the space usable was the best option, while four people responded that they did not want to see anything done with the building, and that we should use it as is until it becomes unsafe and then demolish it.

**Question 5: If the interior of the Old CPR Train Station is renovated with the intention of being repurposed, what would you like to see the space used for?**



While the highest number of responses suggest that people would love to see the museum as an event venue, coupled with more displays, there were a number of people that had alternative ideas about what the Station could be used for. Fifteen people suggested that some sort of restaurant, café, or bar. Five people mentioned some sort of accommodations, either bed and breakfasts or apartments, and a few people mentioned turning the building into a train museum similar to Revelstoke’s.

**Comments from Survey Takers:**

The survey had a comment section, and we received over 60 comments regarding the Station. Many comments were a continuation of ideas that people would like to see happen at the

station. However, we also received a number of comments regarding the Station's location, condition, and various suggestions to look at models that other communities have followed with their Train Stations. There were also a number of positive comments expressing excitement over this project, as well as some comments that expressed their concerns over the it.

## Summarizing the Survey

We had an overwhelmingly positive experience with this survey, with 228 individual responses. In addition to the pre-generated answers we provided for selection, we also received a lot of suggestions that were not on the list of options for the future use. Many people suggested a café, a bar, or some sort of restaurant. There were suggestions for an artisan marketplace, an indoor farmers market, or retail spaces. Housing units were also suggested. Overall, the number of suggestions and options are incredible.

We also received a fair number of supportive comments and suggestions, some of which may not be feasible to implement, but all of which will be carefully considered. There was a small amount of survey responses that were unsupportive of the project for a few reasons, and their comments will also be explored to ensure that we take into consideration all of the factors before undergoing an expensive project.

We also had 24 people who responded to the survey state that they would be interested in being involved in the project in some way. We will be reaching out to those who indicated they would like to help as the next phases of the project go forward.

## The Next Steps

The Golden and District Historical Society has put out a request for proposals to create a plan with Architects and Engineers and we expect to get some fantastic proposals back. This planning process will not only explore physical drawings and plans for the Station, but also explore the things that can be done and should be with this fantastic building. Once we've picked out the right team, we will be searching for funding to develop this plan.

This project will take a large amount of time and money. While we are hopeful to have a plan in place within the next 12 to 18 months, we do not expect to start physical work on the building for several years. Our intention is to get a strong, clear plan in place that breaks the work down into manageable stages, so that each time funding is found, we know exactly where to begin.

## Acknowledgements

The Golden and District Historical Society would like to thank our major funders. Without the following organizations, we would not be able to continue doing the work we are passionate about. Thank you to:

