Old Railroad Station Has A Lot To Show

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When the old railroad station in Baton Rouge was converted into an arts and science center in 1976 it became more than just a huge building with fancy art exhibits. Displayed within the former Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Passenger Station are permanent exhibits dedicated to the Mississippi River which meanders downstream right outside the center. To this day, the railroad whose tracks still thunder with passing trains and the history of Louisiana is an aesthetic and intellectual delight. The spacious edifice totals more than 50,000 square feet, and gives the visitor the feeling of freedom to take his time wandering through the wide hallways and high-ceiling exhibit rooms. The purist will enjoy the clean, uncluttered look of the building's interior and exterior and the preservationist will revel in the salvation of such a prize from the rubble it might have become.

The Passenger Station, which was built in 1928, was leased to the city of Baton Rouge. The building has been used for various purposes, including as a train station, a hotel, and a movie theater. In 1976, the city decided to transform the building into a center for arts and science, and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Passenger Station was opened. The center features permanent exhibits dedicated to the Mississippi River, which is just a short distance away from the building. The exhibits showcase the history and culture of Louisiana, as well as the role of the river in the state's development.

The Louisiana Arts and Science Center features exhibits dedicated to the Mississippi River and its significant role in Louisiana's history and culture. The center's mission is to educate visitors about the river's impact on the state and to preserve the history of the railroad industry.

The center is open to the public and offers free admission. Visitors can explore the permanent exhibits and take part in various educational programs and events throughout the year. The center is located in the heart of Baton Rouge, making it easily accessible for visitors.