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Majority Vote in Favour of Union Contract at Arts Commons

IATSE 212 to Represent Several Positions at Arts Commons

(Calgary, AB – February 17, 2023) The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 212, won a vote today to represent stage employees at Arts Commons, including the Jack Singer Concert Hall, Max Bell Theatre, Martha Cohen Theatre, three other venues, and two more venues in development, which will include an 1000-seat theatre.

Ratification comes following months of negotiating a first contract for a bargaining unit of approximately 70 employees that includes all technical-stage employees. Unlike many first agreements, however, negotiations were amiable and focused on the best interest of employees and the future of the theatres.

“This is an important day for Arts Commons, Local 212, and the overall theatre community in Calgary,” said Damian Petti, IATSE 212 President. “This agreement will ensure a steady supply of professional stage crew for Arts Commons, and more work for our current members and those just joining us as members through this process.”

This agreement between Arts Commons and IATSE occurs as the upcoming infrastructure project Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) will add the previously mentioned 1000-seat theatre to the Arts Commons campus, as well as approximately 3,155 new jobs in Calgary arts and culture.

“We are in a moment of expanding what we do at Arts Commons in exciting and, literally, ground-breaking ways. We are growing, and we need talented, skilled employees to help us,” says President and CEO Alex Sarian. “It has been incredibly heartening to see our teams working together in the spirit of collaboration and support from the beginning.”

The yes votes achieved 78%. Members will begin working under the collective agreement immediately, which includes a boost in wages, and the addition of health benefits and RRSP contributions for casual employees.

“This is a significant achievement for Calgary’s arts community,” said Petti. “This contract not only immediately boosts wages for those under the Arts Commons’ collective agreement, but it also helps leverage a high standard of wages and benefits throughout the industry.”

IATSE 212 welcomes its new members and looks forward to a strong, working relationship with Arts Commons.

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