



# NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO

President  
**VINCENT ALVAREZ**

Secretary-Treasurer  
**JANELLA T. HINDS**



December 8, 2017

Robert E. Wankel  
Chairman of the Board  
The Broadway League  
729 Seventh Avenue, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Wankel,

New York is a union town, and nowhere more so than Broadway. It is troubling, therefore, that Broadway producers are denying casting directors the same union rights that every other worker on Broadway enjoys. As leaders of New York City's labor movement, we call on the Broadway League to recognize Teamsters Local 817 as the union representative of Broadway casting directors, and begin negotiating a union contract.

Without union protections, Broadway casting directors are left to find healthcare or retirement coverage on their own, or risk going without them. Due to a lack of sufficient coverage, some of the most successful casting directors in the world's most successful theater industry cannot go to the hospital when they are sick. That is simply unconscionable and unacceptable in an industry that grossed \$1.5 billion last year.

Casting directors often work for months without getting paid. No other Broadway worker must put up with such unfair treatment, because other Broadway workers have unions to protect them.

As casting directors have called for fairness, they have been answered with threats. In a recent letter, the Broadway League called casting directors a "cartel," and the League is currently suing casting directors and their supporters for organizing. No producer who considers themselves a progressive should attack union organizing in such a way.

Our unions represent millions of New York City workers, and our support of casting directors should be taken seriously. Broadway does not exist in a bubble. Members of our affiliated unions are also your customers. The industries they represent like, transportation, hospitality, and public services, support Broadway and help it succeed.

Broadway casting directors have the full support of the New York City labor movement in their effort to unionize. As this labor dispute escalates, our unions will be standing beside them, demanding justice for all Broadway workers.

We urge you to recognize the casting directors' union and negotiate a contract.

Sincerely,

Vincent Alvarez  
President

Janella T. Hinds  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Joyce Alston**  
President  
BCTGM Local 53

**Joseph Azzopardi**  
Business Manager  
International Union of  
Painters and Allied  
Trades District Council 9

**Robert Bonanza**  
Business Manager  
LIUNA Mason Tenders  
District Council

**Barbara Bowen**  
President  
Professional Staff  
Congress-CUNY, AFT  
Local 2334

**Mark Cannizzaro**  
President  
Council of School  
Supervisors &  
Administrators, AFSA  
Local 1

**Arthur Cheliotis**  
President  
CWA Local 1180

**Edwin Christian**  
President/Business  
Manager  
IUOE Local 14-14B

**James J. Claffey, Jr.**  
President  
IATSE Local 1  
Stagehands

**Peter Clark**  
Recording Secretary/  
Business Agent  
ILA Atlantic Coast  
District

**Joseph A. Colangelo**  
President  
SEIU Local 246

**James Conigliaro, Sr.**  
General Vice President,  
Eastern Territory,  
International Association  
of Machinists &  
Aerospace Workers  
(IAMAW)

**Lester Crockett**  
Regional President  
CSEA/AFSCME Local  
1000, Region 11

**Patrick Dolan, Jr.**  
President  
Enterprise Association,  
Steamfitters Local 638

**John Durso**  
President  
RWDSU Local 338,  
UFCW

**Christopher Erikson**  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 3

**Gerard Fitzgerald**  
President  
Uniformed Firefighters  
Association,  
IAFF Local 94

**Gregory Floyd**  
President  
International  
Brotherhood of  
Teamsters Local 237

**Henry Garrido**  
Executive Director  
AFSCME District  
Council 37

**Michael Goodwin**  
Business Manager  
Office and Professional  
Employees International  
Union, Local 153

**George Gresham**  
President  
1199SEIU

**Mark Henry**  
President  
Amalgamated Transit  
Union Local 1056

**Julie Kelly**  
General Manager  
NY/NJ Joint Board of  
Workers United

**Julie Kushner**  
Director  
UAW Region 9A

**Gary La Barbera**  
President  
Building and  
Construction Trades  
Council of Greater New  
York

**James Mahoney**  
President  
New York State District  
Council of Ironworkers

**Kim Medina**  
Executive Director  
AFSCME District  
Council 1707

**David Mertz**  
Director for New York  
City  
RWDSU/UFCW

**George Miranda**  
President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters,  
Joint Council 16

**Michael Mulgrew**  
President  
United Federation of Teachers

**John J. Murphy**  
International Representative  
United Association of Journeymen and  
Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe  
Fitting Industry

**Harry Nespoli**  
President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Local 831 - Sanitation Employees

**Melissa Robinette**  
Eastern Region Vice President  
Actors' Equity  
Association

**Edgar Romney**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Workers United, SEIU

**John Samuelson**  
President  
Transport Workers Union

**James Slevin**  
President  
UWUA Local 1-2

**Anthony Speelman**  
President  
UFCW Local 1500

**Dennis Trainor**  
Vice President  
CWA District One

**Peter Ward**  
President  
NY Hotel Trades Council

**Patricia White**  
President  
IATSE Local 764