

*INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES*

CHARTERED MAY 1, 1937

AFFILIATED WITH ALL NATIONAL,  
STATE, AND LOCAL LABOR BODIES

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iatse-local-b18.org

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**THEATRICAL EMPLOYEES UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO, LOCAL B18**

December 2020

Dear B18 Members,

This has been a difficult time for all of us. As you know, the entire theatre industry has essentially closed for business. We continue to work aggressively to keep you updated on any news about what the future may bring. Though it may feel hopeless, we had some good news with the passage of the CARES Act, which for the first time allows those with lost income to apply for unemployment assistance. The IATSE also contributed \$2 million to the Actors' Fund to help employees such as our members during these unprecedented times.

Your Local has been able to negotiate with some employers temporary agreements that have provided some income for our members. We are also advocating at the federal, state, and local levels for arts funding for both workers and theaters.

And our work is not done. B18 continues to stay in contact with our employers as part of preparing to discuss our members' health and safety when theaters and sporting venues open again to the public. Moreover, we are collaborating closely with sister unions with a view towards when some "normal" returns.

**Our solidarity is more important than ever during this time** because we know that, when venues reopen, we will have to stand strong together to protect hard-won gains for union members.

I feel that we must continue with this work. Although many of your elected leaders work as volunteers, we still need to be able to pay bills, keep our office, and retain our staff in order to meet the needs of members throughout this crisis. Paying your membership fees, when you are able to do so, will allow core functions to proceed.

Your Local's ability to do things on your behalf depends on membership fees: 1% wage assessments (which have almost entirely dried up) and annual base dues (\$72).

Recognizing that we all have a long list of competing financial obligations and very little income, I need to point out that annual dues are now payable. (The B18 website outlines, as always, payment options: [iatse-local-b18.org](http://iatse-local-b18.org) .)

Normally payment would be expected by February 1. But your Executive Board has decided that the usual late fee will be waived until August 1, 2021. It is the hope of the Board that this will help relieve some of the burden on members. And, if you need more assistance, please contact Member Services and draw up an extended payment plan. This is one way to maintain good-standing.

One of several paid-up-membership benefits includes the right to participate in Local B18 elections. In the fourth quarter of 2021 there will be the opportunity to nominate and vote for all your Local's officers.

And a reminder: general-membership meetings for 2021 are scheduled for 6:30pm on the usual second Monday of each quarter:

January 11, April 12, July 12, and October 11.

I can now confirm that the January 11 meeting will be held online; details will be e-mailed soon.

In closing, **if you can pay your dues now, or even a portion of your dues, it is especially urgent that you do so.** Your Local very much needs the dues you contribute in order to keep it working on your behalf. Whatever you can do, I thank you.

On behalf of the Officers of Local B18, I would like to wish you the best holiday season and celebration possible under the circumstances. We look with hope toward the new year. Please be safe, be well, and stay strong.

In solidarity,



Leontyne Mbele-Mbong  
President, IATSE Local B18

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Because the Local's financial resources are now very limited, going forward all notices and news items will be sent via email only. They will also be posted on our website.**

*If you know a member who does not have access to e-mail and/or the web, please pass information along to them when possible. Or help the member get access to e-mail, and pass on any new e-mail address to the office.*