

After 39 Years, Stagehands, Janitors, Engineers on Sidewalk at the Forum

Dear Members of the Community,

After more than two years of negotiations for a new contract agreement, stagehands at the L.A. Forum have been locked out of their jobs and prevented from working – many of them with years of service at the facility. Other workers have had their contracts terminated.

- The bargaining agent for the Inglewood Forum, SMG, a multimillion dollar management corporation, had already forced steep cuts on the veteran stage hands, with wages reduced up to 35 percent for some types of work.
- We are asking Bishop Ulmer to meet with us to mediate a fair agreement. We understand the financial difficulties in running a facility the size of the Inglewood Forum and we are willing to explore a fair agreement to all parties. Our members are eager to return to work.
- The unions feel the Forum, by defending fair pay and treatment, would reaffirm the values of the many union members who are residents of the city of Inglewood. IA 33 stagehands are offering to start an internship program so church and community members can learn crafts of theatrical stage employees.

We ask the church not to wash its hands of this dispute but to take responsibility and a leadership role in forging a solution. Please stop allowing SMG to bring in replacement workers as we stand on the sidewalks. We are asking that you treat us with respect. Please meet with us.

Do not cast a long shadow on the Church's commitment to the community and to the working men and women who are an integral part of it. Your congregation and the LA community are watching.

In Solidarity,



IATSE Local 33



SEIU 1877



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