

MetroBTC News

Building & Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District

July 2018 Edition



United States Conference of Mayors

Building Trades Unions Shine at 2018 U.S. Conference of Mayors

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Building Boston for over 100 Years

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About Us

The Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District (MetroBTC) represents 35,000 working families in the Metropolitan Boston region. The building trades unions advance social and economic justice by providing family-supporting wages, healthcare benefits, and dignified retirement benefits to workers and their families in the construction industry.

The Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella group of 20 local construction unions, in partnership with more than 3,300 union contractors, provides the highest standards for workers in the construction industry. It is through collective bargaining and the Labor-Management partnership that workers achieve the highest levels of training, safety, and economic security throughout their careers.

The Council strives to create a more fair and just environment for all workers in the construction industry.





Building the Public Good

We are proud to represent the highest standards in the construction industry. We are also honored to stand in solidarity with more than 400,000 union members from all sectors across Massachusetts. We are unwavering in our commitment to lift up all working people. We advocate for public policies that promote shared prosperity and the fundamental human rights of working people. We know how important our voices are on the job, in our unions, in our communities, and in government.

We are passionate about the right of workers to organize into unions to bargain collectively for wages, benefits, working conditions, and a voice at work. Unions are leaders at promoting equity and growing the middle class. The power of collective bargaining lifts living standards for all workers, provides a secure future for families and strengthens communities.

Rebuilding the middle class depends on building the public good. That's why we advocate for laws that invest in education, infrastructure, healthcare, and fair housing. We are proud to represent workers in a city where strong unions are a partner in building the public good.

We were proud to showcase Boston on a national stage at the 2018 U.S. Conference of Mayors last month. It was a great platform to highlight our members' contributions to the Boston building renaissance. It was a unique opportunity to engage so many mayors from across the country to display the great things happening here in Boston. We are proud of our commitment to building our city, building the public good, and celebrating Boston's success.

THE FABRICATION, INNOVATION AND DESIGN CENTER

25 FID Kennedy Avenue (Parcel N), Seaport District, Boston, MA

- Developer: Cannistraro
- General Contractor: Consigli Construction
- About: Sustainably and historically rehabilitated after sitting vacant for decades, Cannistraro recently re-opened the doors to this World War II U.S. Navy machine shop in Boston's Seaport District. The 157,000-square-foot space will now accommodate all Cannistraro's fabrication operations for plumbing, HVAC, fire protection, and multi-trade construction assemblies. The location will aid in another critical goal of Cannistraro's expansion: to provide Boston residents with training and job opportunities in the building trades unions. This project supported dozens of union jobs during construction. Retooling the facility's historic manufacturing capability will provide thousands of union operations jobs in the many years to come.



We want to create opportunity for all by supporting not just jobs but careers. We welcome anyone willing to work with their head, hands, and heart. The men and women of the building trades unions share our mission and vision, and we were proud to work with them during the construction and continue working with them during the operation of this incredible facility.”

**-John C. Cannistraro Jr.,
President, Cannistraro**



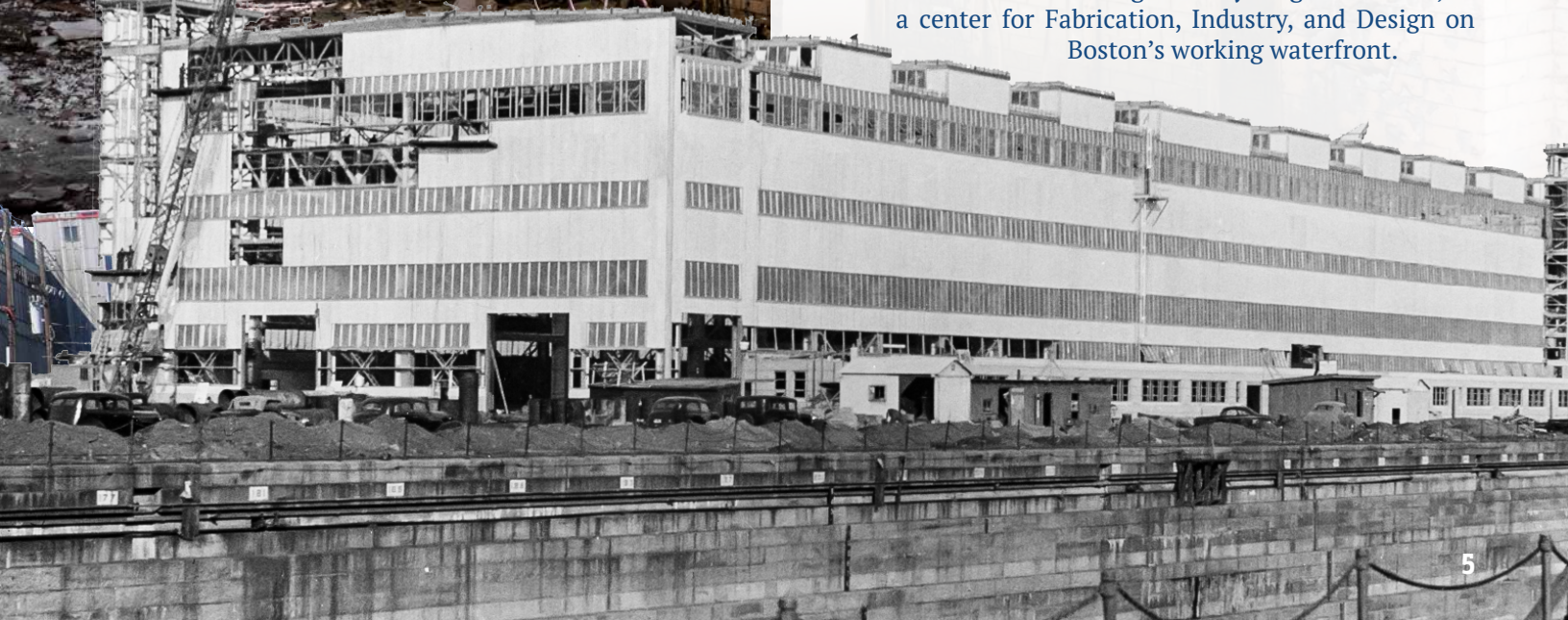


The building trades unions of the MetroBTC have been great partners as we historically rehabilitated and re-purposed this facility that has a remarkable history and a bright future. The top-notch skills and training that the members of the building trades unions brought to this project were instrumental to its success.”

-Consigli Construction Co., Inc.



In 1940, the Army Corp of Engineers built 25 FID Kennedy Avenue, historically known as “Building 16,” on a 3.5-acre lot for the U.S. Navy to serve as a multi-trade heavy machine shop. Cannistraro, Consigli, and the women and men of the building trades unions preserved and incorporated the industrial Art Deco architecture and rich history of both the building and the area. The name “FID” refers to South Boston longshoreman, Thomas “FID” Kennedy, who worked tirelessly for his local union to help raise the working and living standards of the city’s dockworkers. Following the closure of the Boston Navel Annex in 1974, the building fell into a state of disrepair. In 2016, Cannistraro committed to rehabilitate Building 16 and re-establish it through a 50- year ground lease, as a center for Fabrication, Industry, and Design on Boston’s working waterfront.



BOSTON UNIVERSITY MYLES STANDISH HALL

610 Beacon Street, Fenway, Boston, MA



Boston is the best college city in the country, and Shawmut

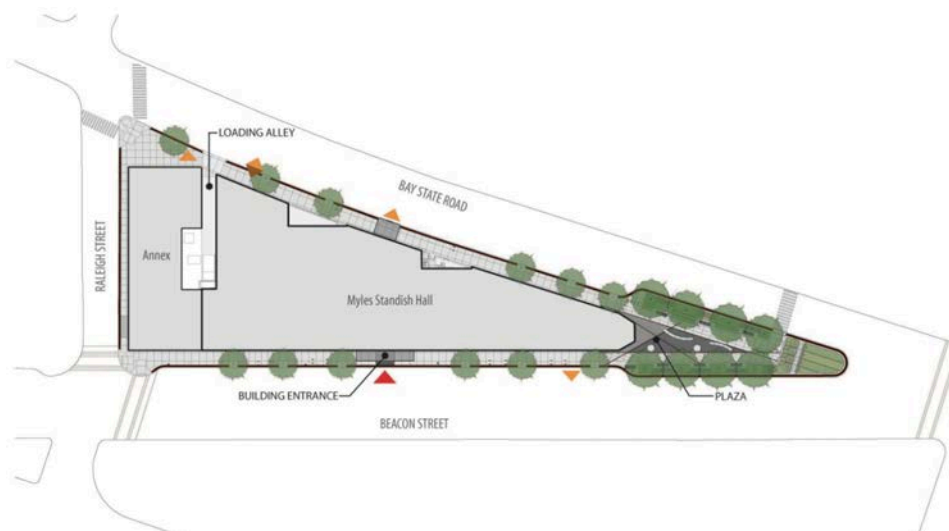
Design and Construction plans to keep it that way by building quality campuses. At Shawmut, we succeed because of quality education and training, and we are honored to build the homes that foster this opportunity for others. We are proud to partner with Boston University and our union building trades craftspersons to bring safe, high-quality living accommodations to students in our region.”

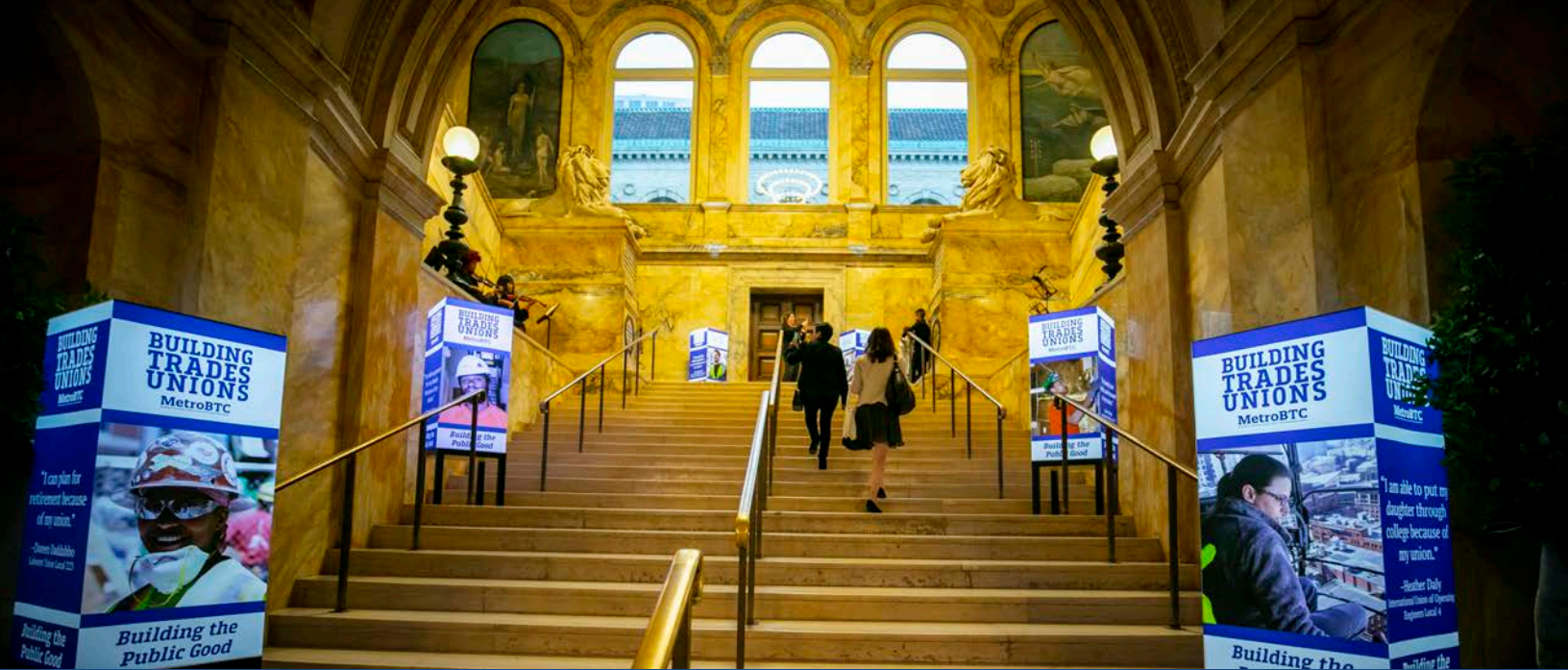
-Mike Sanchez,
Chief of Construction
Operations, Shawmut Design
and Construction

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**



- Developer: Boston University
- General Contractor: Shawmut Design and Construction
- About: 660 bedrooms in an existing residence hall in Kenmore Square will be renovated, including upgraded internal HVAC and elevator systems. A new pedestrian courtyard will also be built at the intersection of Beacon Street and Bay State Road.





United States Conference of Mayors

MetroBTC took center stage at this year's United States Conference of Mayors' (USCM) annual convention, held at historic venues across Boston. As the top sponsor for a gala event at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square, MetroBTC contributed to a spectacular event for an audience of 1400 city leaders from across the country.

The building trades unions' rich history of building the public good was on display through the stories of success and prosperity of our members.

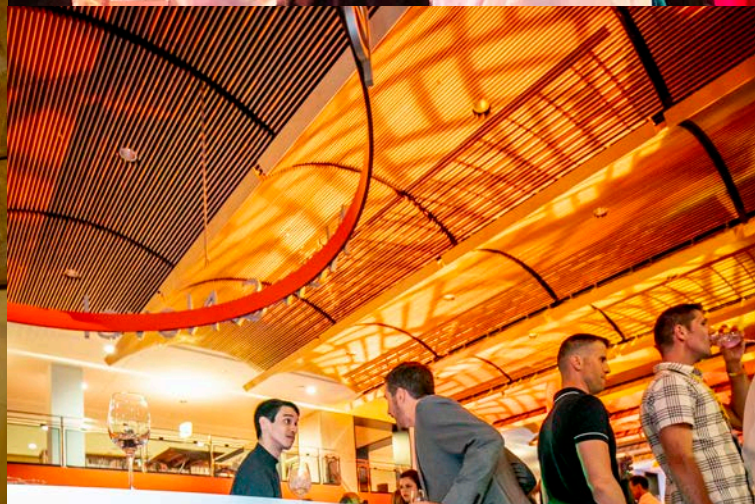
Our workers' photographs and quotes, highlighting the value of their union jobs as a pathway to success, adorned columns and banners throughout the library. Featured workers included members of unions across the building trades unions.

The MetroBTC logo illuminated the face of the building, whose new wing was built and is maintained by union members. The message is clear: The women and men building Boston's renaissance receive the worker protections they deserve, thanks to their unions.

As we work to lift up working families through expanding access to family sustaining jobs, we also recognize the key role local, state and national leaders play in supporting and advocating for our values and for the public good. We were proud to support the U.S. Mayors Conference.



Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Pipefitters Local 537 member Savy Man-Doherty, USCM President Stephen K. Benjamin, Jamal Francis, and USCM CEO/Executive Director Tom Cochran pose before the Pointer Sisters concert.





Savy Man-Doherty of Pipefitters Local 537 speaks to the crowd at the Pointer Sisters concert held during the U.S. Conference of Mayors.





Sprinkler Fitters Local 550 member Chaton Green with Building Pathways graduate Paris Carter and MetroBTC General Agent Brian Doherty





WAGE THEFT VICTIMS TELL BEACON HILL: STAND UP FOR HARDWORKING FAMILIES, NOT CRIMINALS

Grassroots movement spurs action as the State Senate approves S.2546

Chanting “No more victims! No more excuses! Stop wage theft now!” Hundreds of protesters marched through the streets in June to urge Beacon Hill to take swift action to combat a growing epidemic that claims 1,000 new victims every day.

Later that week, the State Senate heeded those calls, voting for a measure that would hold contractors accountable for failing to pay workers what they have earned. But the fight isn’t over. The State House of Representatives must pass the bill in July, before this year’s legislative session expires.

The grassroots campaign, including a rally at the State House, highlighted the need for swift action by both chambers of the state legislature. Community Labor United’s Isabel Gonzalez-Webster made a moral appeal to the legislature to act.

“Every day there are 1,000 victims of the wage theft epidemic, and 1 solution to stop it. The math, morals, and urgency couldn’t be clearer,” said Isabel Gonzalez-Webster, Director of Capacity Building at Community Labor United (CLU).

In June, the organization unleashed a new ad campaign featuring real-life wage theft victims to show lawmakers the consequences of their inaction. The ads – running on TV, radio, digital, and billboards – feature men and women like Letícia de Jesus, who experienced wage theft as a custodial worker.

“I worked hard. I did everything I was asked to do. I upheld my end, but my employer didn’t uphold his,” said de Jesus. “My husband and I were offered jobs with the promise of fair pay, decent housing, and a better life for our family and son. But the promises weren’t kept. We worked more than 15 hours a day. It took three months before we received even our first paycheck. When we spoke out, we were threatened at gunpoint, a moment that still traumatizes our family to this very day.”

Protesters made clear that wage theft is preventable, and cities across the Commonwealth have taken steps to stop it, so there’s no reason why Beacon Hill can’t too. The march kicked off at City Hall, in recognition of the City of Boston – along with many other cities

across the state – having passed ordinances aimed at combating the wage theft epidemic.

They made several stops along the way where wage theft victims spoke out about their experience while calling on the legislature to act. They then converged on the State House, where hundreds rallied and urged legislators to take action now to pass S.2546 before the end of session.

“Employers steal \$700 million from hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts working families every year,” said Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steve Tolman. “Lawmakers must see the human toll this is taking on innocent families and hold bad employers accountable.”

At the State House, protesters called out lawmakers for delaying a vote on this critical legislation.

S. 2546 would give the Attorney General’s office more tools to hold employers accountable for breaking the law, including the ability to bring wage theft cases to court for civil damages and to issue “stop work orders” until wage theft violations are corrected.

Advocates noted that wage theft costs the state millions in tax revenue that could be used for public safety, stronger schools, and to rebuild the state’s failing regional transportation systems.

“Wage theft is a \$700 million a year crime wave that is virtually unchecked. It’s time Massachusetts got serious and adopt tough laws to stop dishonest employers from stealing their workers’ wages,” Frank Callahan, President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council.

Advocates also noted the devastating toll that wage theft takes on vulnerable families, with low-income immigrant communities among the hardest hit. They warned lawmakers that the era of foot dragging and delay was over.



Bringing Labor's Voice to Elected Public Office:

John Mahoney, IUEC Local 4

Ten years ago, John Mahoney installed the escalator at Arlington T Stop. Next November, he may ascend that same escalator, walk through Boston Common, and take his seat in the House Chamber on Beacon Hill.

Mahoney is a longtime member of Elevator Constructors Local 4 who is campaigning to become the next State Representative for the 1st District in Plymouth. He wants to use his unique voice, as a hardworking building trades union member, to advocate for working people in Plymouth and across the state. "We really need more people like John to help represent working people and to educate the public about the benefits of being in a union." Says IUEC Local 4 Business Manager Dave Morgan

His candidacy comes at a critical time. Unions are under assault both locally and nationally, most notably by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME, making it harder for public service workers to join together in a union.

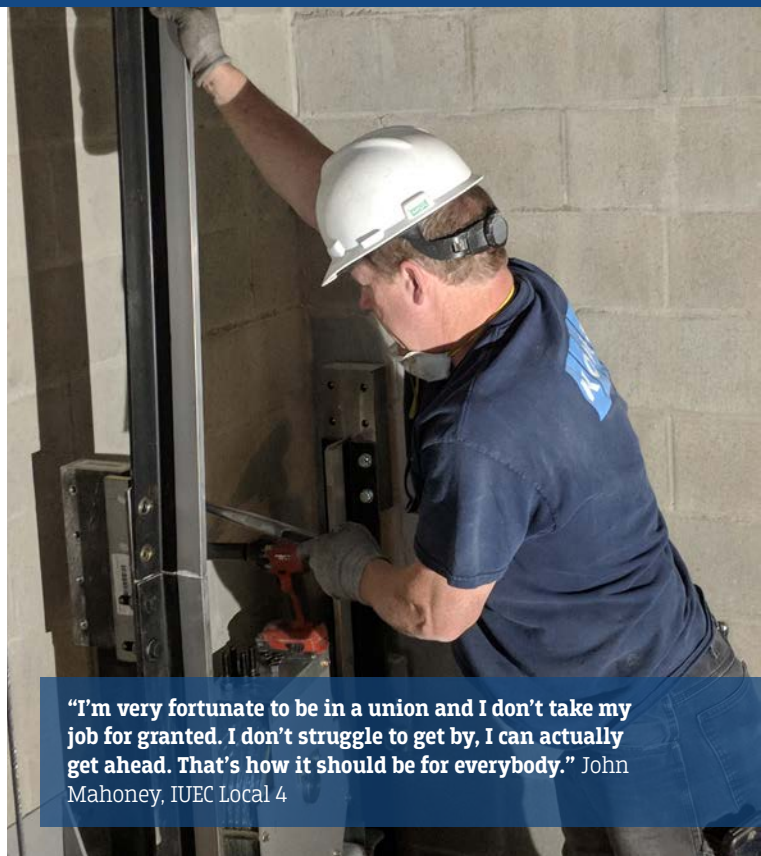
Mahoney wants to fight to expand the rights and benefits he enjoys, to as many workers as possible, whether they are able to join a union or not.

"I'm very fortunate to be in a union and I don't take my job for granted," Mahoney said. "I don't struggle to get by, I can actually get ahead. That's how it should be for everybody."

Mahoney grew up in Pembroke, the son of two union school teachers. In 2002, a friend steered him to Local 4 and he saw a great opportunity for an interesting career with a promising future. He also developed an early interest in politics as a way to promote the common good.

When he was still living in Pembroke, he ran for the Board of Selectpersons at the tender age of 20. While he didn't win that election, he learned a powerful lesson in perseverance.

It's a trait that would serve him well in his union, where tight deadlines and odd hours often define how the work gets done. For instance, as part of the crew installing the new escalator at Arlington T Stop, all the work had to be completed in five-hour



"I'm very fortunate to be in a union and I don't take my job for granted. I don't struggle to get by, I can actually get ahead. That's how it should be for everybody." John Mahoney, IUEC Local 4

overnight increments – the only time the T wasn't operating, and commuters wouldn't be inconvenienced.

Once Mahoney moved to Plymouth, he tried his luck again in the political sphere. This time, despite being a relative newcomer to the town, he prevailed, and has served on the Board of Selectpersons for the past ten years. Mahoney is most proud of a deal the Board secured to use a modest increase in the meals tax to fund a \$54 million new town hall--a creative solution that avoided raising property taxes on working people. He has also been a champion for workers at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant, working to ensure they will have the retraining they need to transition to new jobs.

But he felt there was more he could do, so Mahoney set his sights on the State House. The incumbent State Representative proposed eliminating Sunday overtime pay for retail workers, and Mahoney wanted to advocate for those workers, who don't have access to union protections.

"People shouldn't have to work 60 or 80 hours a week to support a family," Mahoney said. "You're taking money out of people's pocket, this is something they already have. If people work on Sunday, if they are willing to be away from family to get ahead, they should be compensated."

Mahoney lost his first campaign for State Representative, two years ago, by a mere 400 votes. But with dozens of his fellow union members volunteering on his campaign, Mahoney feels this time his chances are great.



Solidarity Update

1199SEIU Organizes Professional Employees at Whittier Street Health Center

At the end of June, over 70 professional staff at the Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury voted overwhelmingly to join the union of 1199SEIU. Just the week before, 20 employees who were leading the organizing campaign were abruptly fired. After their co-workers, the labor movement, and Boston community rallied in support of these workers, they were reinstated just before the vote.

"The staff at Whittier have spoken loudly and clearly," said 1199SEIU United Health Care Workers East in a statement. "These physicians, nurses, social workers, behavioral health specialists and other staff want a stronger voice on the job so that they can enhance patient care and better meet the health center's needs."



Emerson Staff Ratify First Union Contract

New agreement sets higher standards for college & university workers

Members of the Emerson Staff Union voted unanimously to ratify their first collective bargaining agreement with the college—a four-year agreement that guarantees across the board raises of 14.5 percent over the life of the contract, new commuter benefits, strong "just cause" job protections, a sick bank and a consistent and broad parental leave policy.

The contract covers about 170 clerical, technical and professional employees at Emerson College who perform a variety of jobs critical to the success of the college. Emerson Staff Union members showed incredible determination from when they first formed their union with support from SEIU Local 888 in 2015, to winning their NLRB representation election in April 2016. With the May 31 ratification of their contract, they finally gained union membership!

In addition to staff at Emerson, Local 888 unites higher education employees at Boston University, Brandeis University and UMass Lowell.

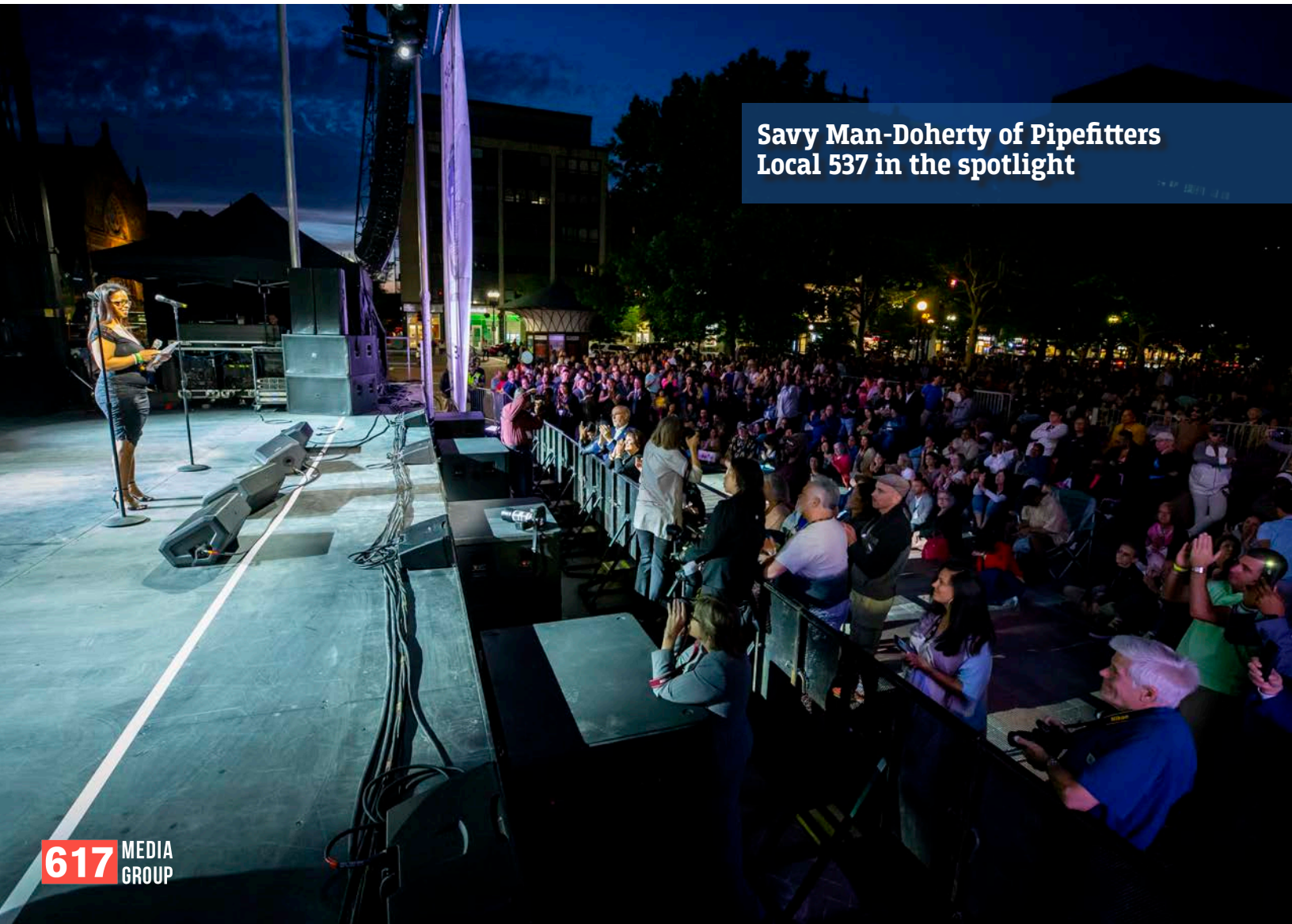
The building trades unions of the MetroBTC have had a strong partnership with Emerson College for many years, building, renovating, repurposing and maintaining buildings there. We applaud Emerson for negotiating in good faith with their employees united in SEIU Local 888.



MetroBTC

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**Savy Man-Doherty of Pipefitters
Local 537 in the spotlight**