



October 21, 2026

Austin City Council
301 W. 2nd Street,
2nd Floor,
Austin, TX. 78701.

Re. City Council's October 22nd Consent Agenda Item 40 (Convention Center)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, and City Councilors,

The Austin Central Labor Council is in favor of consent agenda item 40 concerning the Austin Convention Center.

While many may credit certain vendors for creating successful live events in Austin, the reality is that successful events are created by the labor those vendors employ. Live events are labor-intensive, requiring experience and skill to safely install, operate, and dismantle stages and lighting, sound, and video equipment. Staged, live events simply cannot happen without stagehands!

Unfortunately, the closure of the Austin Convention Center has caused a significant, ongoing hardship for Austin's local stagehand community, particularly those represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 205, who regularly worked Convention Center events. While what is done cannot be undone, moving forward, we must ensure Austin's stagehands have a more prosperous future by requiring prospective Convention Center vendors to meet standards designed to produce good, safe jobs.

We believe the resolution aligns with the City's commendable track record of supporting Austin's local workforce by requiring reasonable and fair labor standards through contracting. Competitive wages are extremely important for gig workers like stagehands. Much like Austin's musicians, stagehands also struggle with Austin's cost of living. Highlighting that wage rates are important is a positive step towards creating financial security.

Equally significant is the Council's resolve to foster safe working environments. Installing, operating, and dismantling the equipment used in live events is physically demanding and sometimes dangerous. Requiring industry-recognized certifications for employees, such as OSHA, and the utilization of ETCP Recognized Labor Providers, like IATSE Local 205, produces safer work environments. Employing stagehands trained to prevent, recognize, and mitigate potential hazards makes events safer for everyone, including patrons.

We ask you to continue supporting local labor by voting in favor of agenda item 40.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Cooper", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Cooper, President.