



MASSACHUSETTS AFL-CIO

Today's Unions

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June 8, 2009

Frank T. Keefe
Chief Executive Officer
The Boston Museum
55 Court Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Frank,

It is an honor as President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO to write this letter of support for the Boston Museum. The Boston Museum will bring to Massachusetts a space that ties together the incredible chapters of our Commonwealth's story, the oldest story in our nation.

Our state is currently at the forefront on a number of issues. From the minimum wage, to marriage equality rights, to the right to organize by majority authorization for public employees, to health care reform, and leading the way on the revolutionary economic development being undertaken in creating, green and clean jobs, as well as jobs in the life sciences, we are a model for the rest of the nation. This leading role for Massachusetts is nothing new, however, as we have led the nation time and time again from women's rights to public school education, from child labor laws to workplace safety standards, and countless more examples too numerous to name here. Among the many stories to be proud of, we have a history of labor struggle that has shaped both our Commonwealth and our nation. The Labor Movement here began before the American Revolution when, as early as 1747, workers from Massachusetts resisted the British Navy's attempts at forced labor on their ships. And the struggle for better working conditions and fair pay has continued throughout our state's history. From the "Lowell Girls" who protested against poor working conditions and wage reductions at the Lowell factory mills, the "Bread and Roses" strike in Lawrence, and the nation's very first child labor law passed in 1843 by our state legislature, workers in Massachusetts have long set the stage for the rest of the nation.

I look forward to visiting the Boston Museum and seeing our history of labor struggle placed in context with the abolitionist movement, women's rights, the fight for civil rights, and the struggles of immigrants who came from around the world to work and live in Boston. Indeed, in all these struggles, there is a

common element – the streets of Boston have always been a place where people organized and spoken out for social and economic justice, for a better and more just world. The spirit of revolution felt in 1775 has never quite left our region, instead it has manifested itself time and time again in new movements for change.

While the tying together of our collective stories is reason enough to be excited about the Boston Museum, the new institution will also provide educational opportunities for our youth, and economic growth for our communities. I am proud to offer my full support on behalf of the largest labor organization in Massachusetts for the establishment of the Boston Museum on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. It is my sincere hope that the history of organized labor in Boston and Massachusetts will be found resident in this new historic landmark, so that all who visit it will be educated about the profound impact labor unions have had on this city, state and nation, and how closely intertwined labor's history is with the entire American story. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert J. Haynes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert J. Haynes
President