

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JONATHAN BROSTOFF**  
19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

To the workers at the Milwaukee Art Museum,

I understand that you and your colleagues are deciding whether to join the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in your quest for a just and fair workplace. I am proud to stand with you and offer my unreserved support for this effort.

Over my years in public service, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with workers across our city and state who are proud union members. These workers formed or joined unions to improve their working conditions, to better negotiate for fair compensation, and to have a greater voice in their workplace. For them, forming a union means the opportunity to negotiate with management as *equals* in the pursuit of legally binding contracts that guarantee fair wages, well-earned benefits, and better working conditions.

Even as we have seen the vilification and decline of union representation across our country over the past 40 years or so, nationally, on average, union workers still earn 25 percent more than non-union workers, and they have significantly better job stability, healthcare, and working conditions. Belonging to a union returns workers to a position of power and ends the arrangement where an employer is able to make all the decisions and call all the shots unilaterally. Instead, workers with union representation have the legal right to collectively bargain with their employer over the issues they have identified as needing attention or improvement.

The Milwaukee Art Museum is a local and national icon that represents our region. Part of MAM's responsibility to our Milwaukee community is to guarantee a livable wage to all of its workers, and to recognize the burden that low wages, limited benefits, and precarious scheduling place on families and on our community at large.

As you raise your voices for meaningful workplace improvements and a seat at the table, I commend you for your commitment to making sure that the Milwaukee Art Museum lives up to this prestigious reputation. Art museum workers deserve an independent voice for dignity and fairness on the job.

Your efforts, though difficult, will strengthen both the Milwaukee Art Museum and the world-class community we call home. Your workplace contributions enrich the residents of Wisconsin, your collective knowledge protects precious works of art and helps present them in professional ways, and your expertise allows the daily operations of the museum to run smoothly. Those contributions deserve recognition.

I proudly stand with you, and echo your request that MAM management remain neutral and respect their employees' right to make this important decision.

I deeply respect the critical work you do every day, I thank you for your service to the people of Milwaukee and Wisconsin, and I wish you the best in your efforts to create a fair and democratic workplace where your employer not only *hears* your voices, but truly *listens* to them as well.

In Solidarity,



Jonathan Brostoff  
State Representative  
19th Assembly District