



International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
Local 417
1924 S 16th Street
Wilmington NC 28401

March 31, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The Sokoto House, located at 1219 Dawson Street in Wilmington, NC has been a host to IATSE Local 417 during our union organizing efforts and our continuous workforce training and development over the 2021-2022 calendar cycles. With the help of Vance Williams and the Sokoto House community activation team, we, the members of IATSE Local 417 have found safe harbor and devoted ourselves in alliance with the missions of The Sokoto House.

Over the last year, The Sokoto House has hosted Local 417 for workforce training, recruitment, as well as provided our members and referrals with vital infrastructure like internet access and computers to assist in the rising need for contactless employment and payroll onboarding. As stage employees we work for many employers who come to the Wilmington area with live events. Live Nation has been our primary employer and without The Sokoto House, many people would have struggled to meet the technological needs of contactless paperwork for employment, as well as access to our online scheduling portals. Vance Williams and The Sokoto House family have hosted job fairs for us to recruit new hires, and their facility was able to provide Audio/Visual equipment that was pivotal to our organization under the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. The Sokoto House was our first home as an organizing union, and it has continued to support us every step of the way.

As performing arts and live events struggled back to work during the Covid-19 Pandemic, a safe and spacious environment was crucial to our success. The Sokoto House has never wavered in their dedication to community support, and it is the express desire of the members of IATSE Local 417 in Wilmington NC, to continue our partnership with The Sokoto House for many years to come.

During our organization, it has been of great importance to make sure the community that The Sokoto House serves is a part of our founding organizers. While we have been organizing, we have been a part of Local 417 based in Raleigh, NC and due to the distance between us and our Local's home base, The Sokoto House has been the unofficial home of stage employees in Wilmington. We, the members of IATSE local 417 based in Wilmington, will be submitting an application for charter from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees for a Wilmington jurisdiction in live events eminently. It is our hope to keep supporting The Sokoto House, as they have not only supported us but ARE us. Without the facility of the Sokoto House, we would not have been as successful as we were when we joined Local 417 with 100 members and referrals. Live Events in Wilmington contributed approx \$1.2



Million in income to more than 200 stage employees in the Wilmington area, with half of that being through the collective bargaining agreement between IATSE Local 417's and Live Nation. None of which would have been possible without the hospitality of The Sokoto House. Our roots took hold at The Sokoto House and we, the Members of local 417 will continue to nurture and grow our community there. Our gratitude and appreciation for The Sokoto House is beyond expression, it is and will hopefully remain one of our cornerstones.

In Solidarity,

Hannah Funderburke

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