

Creative Labor Unions

- A labor union is an **organization of workers who lobby for better workers' rights**.
- Unions can have many benefits, but they most notably lobby and **negotiate for better workers' rights**, including better pay, safer working conditions, and better benefits.
- Unions can be **specific to a particular discipline** or job field, geographic location, or even a specific company.
- There are **requirements a person must meet in order to join** a particular union.
- Unions are led and governed by **union leaders elected by union members**.
- **Actions to achieve improved conditions take many forms** of peaceful protest such as formal written proposals, petitions, strikes, walk-outs, and more.

Actors	• <u>Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)</u>: represents screen, voiceover, and media. HQ in Los Angeles ○ Large organization that represents many in the entertainment industry ○ To join: must be involved in a SAG or AFTRA organization (3 days as a background actor, or 1 day in a speaking role) ○ Fees: Yes ○ https://www.sagaftra.org/ • <u>Actor's Equity Association (Equity, AEA)</u>: stage actors, stage managers, HQ in Times Square, NY. ○ To join: Can apply through a sister union (SAG-AFTRA, AGMA, AGVA or GIAA) ■ Open Access: Can apply if you've worked as an actor within AEA's geographical jurisdiction ■ If you are employed under an Equity Contract ○ Fees: Yes ○ https://www.actorsequity.org/
Animation	• <u>The Animation Guild (TAG)</u>: represents animators and artists working within the animation industry ○ Local 829 of IATSE ○ Must be working in the animation industry to join ○ https://animationguild.org/ • <u>United Scenic Artists (USA829)</u>: represents artists, designers, and craftspeople in a wide range of fields (film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, exhibitions, etc.) ○ Local 829 of IATSE ○ https://www.usa829.org/

Architecture	
Art (Ceramics)	• Ceramic and Allied Trades Union–British union of ceramics artists that was absorbed into the GMB trade Union in 2015
Art (Painting, Drawing, etc.)	• <u>United Scenic Artists (USA829)</u>: represents artists, designers, and craftspeople in a wide range of fields (film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, exhibitions, etc.) ○ Local 829 of IATSE ○ https://www.usa829.org/
Creative Writing	• <u>National Writers Union (NWU)</u>: represents a wide variety of writers, including creative writing ○ Has a spanish language division ○ https://nwu.org/who-can-join/ • <u>Writers Guild of America (WGA)</u>: represents writers for screen, television, online, and motion picture media ○ https://www.wga.org/ (WEST) ○ https://www.wgaeast.org/what-is-the-guild/ (EAST)
Dance	• <u>Actors Equity Association (AEA)</u>: commonly Broadway and opera dancers ○ https://www.actorsequity.org/ • <u>American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)</u>: ballet, opera, concert dancers ○ https://www.musicalartists.org/ • <u>Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA)</u>: commonly commercial dancers (music videos, commercials, film) ○ https://www.sagaftra.org/ • <u>American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA)</u>: represents variety artists, like circus performers, cabarets, theme parks, etc. ○ https://agvausa.com/
Fashion	• <u>UNITE HERE!</u> ○ Amalgamation of a variety of industries (majority Hospitality) but includes Fashion and textile work ○ https://unitehere.org/industry/textile/ • <u>Workers United</u> ○ Large labor union that includes textile and apparel workers in the U.S. and Canada ○ https://workersunited.org/

Film

- **American Federation of Musicians** - (AFM): represents musicians and composers, including in the movie and tv industries
 - <https://www.afm.org/>
- **Art Directors Guild (ADG)**: represents motion picture and tv professionals
 - Local of IATSE
 - <https://adg.org/>
- **Costume Designers Guild**: union representing costume designers, assistant costume designers, illustrators, etc.
 - Local of IATSE
 - <https://www.costumedesignersguild.com/>
- **Directors Guild of America**: represents directors
 - <https://www.dga.org/>
- **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)**:
 - <https://iatse.net/>
 - labor union that consists of several smaller unions in the entertainment industry (artists, producers, theater, concerts)
 - they have a list of all their “Locals” or smaller unions underneath their umbrella [here](#)
- **Makeup artists and Hair stylists Guild**:
 - <https://local706.org/>
- **Motion Pictures Editor’s Guild**: represents mostly post-production workers
 - freelance workers, staff, motion picture, film, and television editors in the U.S.
 - <https://www.editorsguild.com/>
- **The Animation Guild (TAG)**: represents anyone with a professional position in the animation industry
 - However several of their focuses include the hiring process, so freelance animators applying to industry positions have a shot
 - <https://animationguild.org/>
- **Local 695**: represents Production Sound Technicians, Sound engineers, Video Assist Technicians and Studio Projectionists

	○ https://www.local695.com/ ● <u>Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists</u> (SAG-AFTRA): represents screen, voiceover, and media workers ○ HQ in Los Angeles ○ https://www.sagaftra.org/ ● <u>Teamsters</u>: union that includes a motion picture branch for entertainment workers ○ https://teamster.org/divisions ● <u>Writer's Guild of America (WGA)</u>: represents writers for screen, plays, etc. ○ https://www.wga.org/ ○ collaboration between West and East sections (above link is for West)
Graphic Design	● <u>Graphic Communications Conference</u> ○ part of International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Local 174) ○ https://teamster.org/divisions/graphic-communications-conference/ ● <u>Graphic Artists Guild</u> ○ https://graphicartistsguild.org/ ● <u>Art Directors Guild (ADG)</u> ○ Local 800 of IATSE, represents Graphic Artists/Designers ○ https://adg.org/join/scenic-title-and-graphic-artists/
Industrial Design	
Interior Design	
Museum Administration	
Music (inc. instrumental, vocal, popular culture)	● <u>Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA)</u> ○ represents singers and recording artists in addition to lots of other career fields ○ https://www.sagaftra.org/ ● <u>American Federation of Musicians (AFM)</u> ○ union that represents instrumental musicians ○ https://www.afm.org/

Music Therapy	• <u>American Music Therapy Association</u> ○ Not a union, also already on industry overview packets
Photography	• <u>American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP)</u> ○ Technically a trade association since it represents individual photographers rather than groups ○ https://www.asmp.org/
Teacher	• <u>National Art Education Association (NAEA)</u> ○ professional organization and labor union ○ https://www.arteducators.org/
Theater (Non-Actor)	• <u>United Scenic Artists (USA829)</u>: represents artists, designers, and craftspeople in a wide range of fields (film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, exhibitions, etc.) ○ Local 829 of IATSE ○ https://www.usa829.org/ • <u>International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)</u> ○ https://iatse.net/about/ ○ represents a large variety of Arts and performance unions, their Local Unions page has a list of all of them
Video Game	• <u>Game Workers Unite (GWU)</u> ○ a business organization trying to create union chapters globally (UK and Australia have already succeeded, as well as parts of Canada) ○ https://www.gameworkersunite.org/get-involved
Web Design	• <u>United Scenic Artists (USA829)</u>: represents artists, designers, and craftspeople in a wide range of fields (film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, exhibitions, etc.) ○ Local 829 of IATSE ○ https://www.usa829.org/ • <u>Art Directors' Guild (ADG)</u> ○ https://adg.org/join/scenic-title-and-graphic-artists/
Other Helpful Links	• <u>The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)</u>: This labor union represents artisans, craftspeople, technicians, and operators in film, television, and live productions. ○ https://iatse.net/ ○ has a student outreach program: https://www.legacy.iatse.net/history/iatse-student-outreach-program

- more info:

<https://iatse.net/education/>

- “Everything you Need to Know about Actors’ Unions”:
<https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/unions-101-everything-you-need-to-know-70119/>
- Major Actor Unions in the United States
[https://www.cityheadshots.com/blog/actor-unions#:~:text=There%20are%20two%20primary%20actor,and%20radio%20\(recorded\)%20actors](https://www.cityheadshots.com/blog/actor-unions#:~:text=There%20are%20two%20primary%20actor,and%20radio%20(recorded)%20actors)
- Theatrical Stage Management Unions and Associations
<http://www.stagemanagementresource.com/unions-and-associations>
 - List of unions and organizations for theater management
- Here is a good list of current film unions:
<https://www.wrapbook.com/blog/film-unions>
- “The Pros and Cons of Joining an Artist Union”:
<https://storyboardartists.com/pros-cons-joining-artist-union/>
- “Unions and Film Groups Storyboard Artists should look into”
<https://storyboardart.org/storyboard-tutorials/artist-unions/>
- “When an Artists should join a Union”
<https://www.actorschecklist.com/main-checklist/joining-a-union>