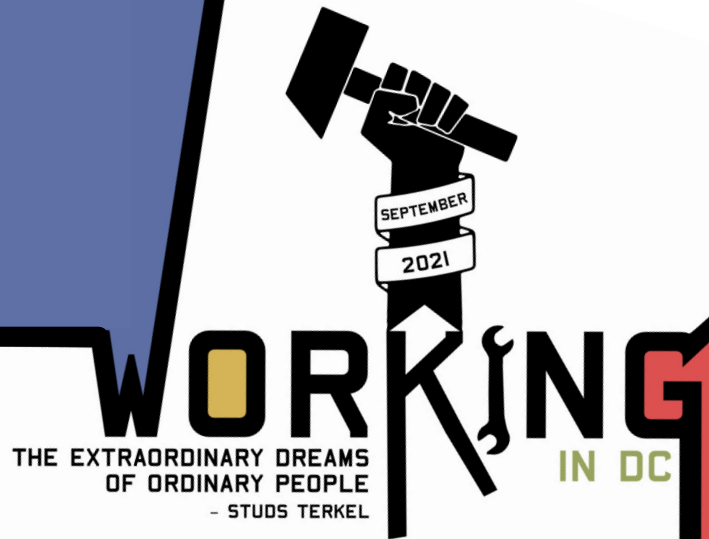


Labor Heritage Foundation  
815 Black Lives Matter Plaza  
Washington, DC 20006

[www.workingindc.org](http://www.workingindc.org)



### **The Project:**

WORKING IN DC is a public celebration of the working class through the lens of history, labor, justice, and the arts. The event takes place outdoors at the AFL-CIO on Black Lives Matter plaza over the course of 3 weekends leading up to and following Labor Day, September 2021. WORKING IN DC is a free, public event which includes: theatre performances of labor history, student participation and projects, labor education initiatives in DC public & charter schools, oral history collection and reflection, public art and history activations, forums and curated panel conversations, research in working class studies and history, and civic engagement opportunities for the DC community.

### **The Performance:**

This professional performance of *Working, A Musical*, based on the works of Studs Terkel with music by Broadway's best composers, is a joyful musical theatre celebration of Workers in America. Presented as the headliner event of WORKING IN DC and in collaboration with The Labor Heritage Foundation, *Working, A Musical* is being produced to raise awareness of the labor movement, the dignity of work, and the valuable identity of workers - with a special focus on honoring front-line labor during Covid-19, continued racial injustice, and political unrest. While uplifting the values of equity and labor justice, *Working, A Musical* will serve as a means to revive live performance after the pandemic and put union artists back to work in service to the community. Reflecting on Workers' lives, stories, and identities, *Working* resonates with hope, joy, and shared humanity - above all, reminding us that we are all connected.

### **Education & Community Engagement:**

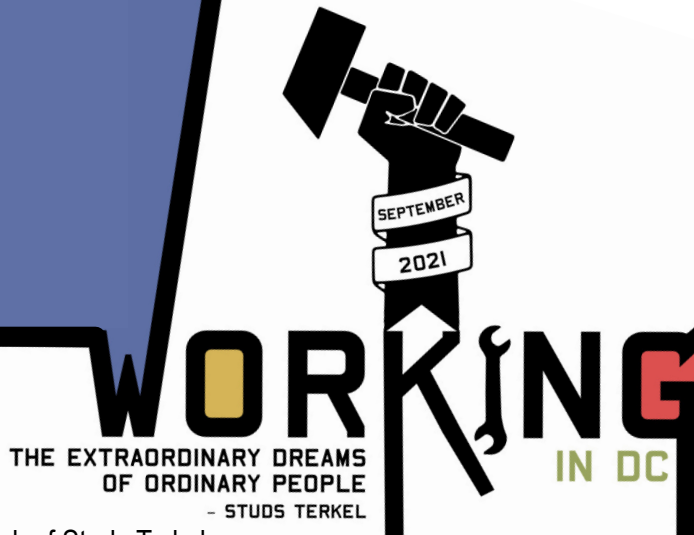
*Something To Point To* is an educational and community initiative aimed at developing a deeper connection to worker identity and the dignity of work and a clearer understanding of the history of the labor movement and its legacy today. Aligned with *Working: A Musical*, as part of WORKING IN DC, this project is an extension of a public event, elevating the profile of the working class through the power of the arts. The purpose of this project is to use arts as an engagement tool to increase awareness of labor, history, and working class issues for students of all ages and the wider Washington, DC community. Our educational initiative *Something To Point To* encourages students and participants of all ages to learn about and reflect upon work as a valuable contribution and something they can be proud to point to!

### **WORKING IN DC will:**

- bring over 1,100 DC residents from every ward to the free, public, live events at Black Lives Matter Plaza, September 3rd - 19th 2021
- Innovate a method for embedding historians, activists, and scholars in the creative process of making public art
- provide teaching artists in the DC public and charter schools
- provide dedicated reserved access for all events to DC public high school students
- further the mission of Labor Heritage Foundation to preserve and promote knowledge of the cultural heritage of the American worker

Labor Heritage Foundation  
815 Black Lives Matter Plaza  
Washington, DC 20006

[www.workingindc.org](http://www.workingindc.org)



### **WORKING IN DC Output will include:**

- Free public performances of *Working, A Musical* based on the work of Studs Terkel
- Curated panel conversations -recorded, streamed, publicly available.
- Story sharing /oral history activations in partnership with the Humanities Truck
- *Something To Point To*: educational modules & arts integration lesson plans for K-12
- Publicly available research, history, and dramaturgy packet around the themes, events, and historical significance of the source material: *Working*, by Studs Terkel
- Collected stories, creative arts testimonies, and oral histories of current workers in Washington DC, which will be curated and returned to the community
- *Work(ing) In Progress*, the collected stories of Arts Workers on this project, reflecting on the subject of Arts as Labor, which will be curated and returned to the community
- *Something To Point To*: A collection of arts-instigations and creative arts testimonies from students across the district, to be showcased at the event

### **Partners include:**

- Labor Heritage Foundation: presenting organization and fiscal sponsor
- AFL-CIO: hosting organization
- ULLICO: presenting sponsor
- Broadway for Racial Justice: allied organization and ReAction pilot project
- PAAL, Parent Artist Advocacy League: caregiver support partner
- Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and The Working Poor at Georgetown
  - Sherry Linkon - lead scholar, Joe McCartin, director
- Worker's Right's Institute at Georgetown Law
  - Mark Gaston Pearce
- The Humanities Truck
- Teaching for Change: STPT k-12 engagement partner
- Local Arts Unions: AEA, SDC, IATSE-USA829, AFM, and more.

### **Why WORKING IN DC, Why now?:**

- We have a renewed sense of the American Worker's role in society, and our relationship to work and our jobs is shifting. We are thinking about work in a new way - from unemployment, to workplace safety, to work-from-home - we are all connected to these ideas.
- Free publicly accessible reflection, research, conversation, and civic engagement make WORKING IN DC a project of and for all people
- WORKING IN DC will increase visibility of worker's rights and unions, both inside and outside of the labor movement. It will investigate the intersection of labor, justice, anti-racism, and public policy.
- The Labor Movement resurgence and visibility has lead to the need for wider support and understanding of worker's lives and stories.
- The performance of *Working, A Musical* will bring a contemporary lens to the historic stories of working people, collected by one of America's greatest authors, historians, and humanists: Studs Terkel.
- *Working, A Musical* resonates with hopeful longing, joy, and shared humanity. It reminds of us of how we are connected.
- We believe in the power of publicly available arts and engagement to change people's hearts and minds on the important issues of our day, like worker's rights, workplace safety, caregiver support, the right to organize, and labor policy.