

# **PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT [PUBLIC SECTOR]**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **PURPOSE**

This Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 by and by and between \_\_\_\_\_, its successors or assigns (hereinafter “Project Contractor”), the \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter “Owner”) and the Duluth Building and Construction Trade Council, on behalf of its affiliated local unions, acting on their own behalf and on behalf of their respective affiliates and members whose names are subscribed hereto and who have, through their duly authorized officers, executed this Agreement, hereinafter collectively called the “Union or Unions”, with respect to the construction of the \_\_\_\_\_ [name of Project], hereinafter “Project”.

The term “Contractor” shall include all construction contractors and subcontractors of whatever tier engaged in construction work within the scope of this Agreement, including the Project Contractor when it performs construction work within the scope of this Agreement. Where specific reference to \_\_\_\_\_ [name of Project Contractor] alone is intended, the term “Project Contractor” is used.

The parties recognize the need for the timely completion of the Project without interruption or delay. This Agreement is intended to establish a framework for labor-management cooperation and stability. The Contractor(s) and the Unions agree that the timely construction of this Project will require substantial numbers of employees from construction and supporting crafts possessing skills and qualifications that are vital to its completion. They will work together to furnish skilled, efficient craft workers for the construction of the Project.

Further, the parties desire to mutually establish and stabilize wages, hours and working conditions for the craft workers on this construction project, to encourage close cooperation between the Contractor(s) and the Unions to the end that a satisfactory, continuous and harmonious relationship will exist between the parties to this Agreement.

Therefore, in recognition of the special needs of this Project and to maintain a spirit of harmony, labor-management peace, and stability during the term of this Agreement, the parties agree to abide by the terms and conditions in this Agreement, and to establish effective and binding methods for the settlement of all misunderstandings, disputes or grievances which may arise. Further, the Contractor(s) and all contractors of whatever tier, agree not to engage in any lockout, and the Unions agree not to engage in any strike, slow-down, or interruption or other disruption of or interference with the work covered by this Agreement.

## ARTICLE II

### SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

Section 1. This Project Labor Agreement shall apply and is limited to all construction work included in all bid categories for the Project under the direction of and performed by the Contractor(s), of whatever tier, which may include the Project Contractor, who have contracts awarded for such work on the Project. Such work shall include site preparation work and dedicated off-site work.

The Project is defined as: [list all aspects of the construction work involved.]

Section 2. It is agreed that the Project Contractor shall require all Contractors of whatever tier who have been awarded contracts for work covered by this Agreement to accept and be bound by the terms and conditions of this Project Labor Agreement by executing this Agreement prior to commencing work. This Project Labor Agreement is a material term of the bid specifications for the Project and therefore, regardless of whether a contractor executes this Agreement, by virtue of the owner and/or Project Contractor accepting the bid offer of the Contractor, a Contractor who performs work on this project is bound to this PLA regardless of their execution of this Agreement. The Project Contractor shall assure compliance with this Agreement by the Contractors. It is further agreed that, where there is a conflict, the terms and conditions of this Project shall supersede and override terms and conditions of any and all other national, area, or local collective bargaining agreements, except for all work performed under the NTL Articles of Agreement, The National Stack/Chimney Agreement, the National Cooling Tower Agreement, all instrument calibration work and loop checking shall be performed under the terms of the UA/IBEW Joint National Agreement for Instrument and Control Systems Technicians, and the National Agreement of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, with the exception of Article V, VI and VII of this Project Labor Agreement, which shall apply to such work.

Section 3. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit, restrict or interfere with the performance of any other operation, work, or function which may occur at the Project site or be associated with the development of the Project.

Section 4. This Agreement shall only be binding on the signatory parties hereto and shall not apply to their parents, affiliates or subsidiaries.

Section 5. The Owner and/or Project Contractor have the absolute right to select any qualified bidder for the award of contracts on this Project without reference to the existence or non-existence of any agreements between such bidder and any party to this Agreement; provided, however, only that such bidder is willing, ready and able to become a party to and comply with this Project Agreement, should it be designated the successful bidder.

Section 6. As areas and systems of the Project are inspected and construction tested by the Project Contractor or Contractors and accepted by the Owner, the Project Labor Agreement will not have further force or effect on such items or areas, except when the Project Contractor or Contractors are directed by the Owner to engage in repairs, modifications, check-out, and warranty functions required by its contract with the Owner during the term of this Agreement.

Section 7. It is understood that the Owner, at its sole option, may terminate, delay and/or suspend any or all portions of the Project at any time.

Section 8. It is understood that the liability of any employer and the liability of the separate unions under this Agreement shall be several and not joint. The unions agree that this Agreement does not have the effect of creating any joint employer status between or among the Owner, Contractor(s) or any employer.

Section 9. The provisions of this Project Labor Agreement shall apply to all craft employees represented by any Union listed in Schedule A hereto attached and shall not apply to other field personnel or managerial or supervisor employees as defined by the National Labor Relations Act. No Contractor party is required to sign any other agreement as a condition of performing work within the scope of this Agreement. However, any Contractor performing work on the Project which is not party to a Local Area Labor Agreement for a craft employed by the Contractor, agrees to install hourly wage rates, hours, fringe benefit contributions, referral procedures and all other terms and conditions of employment as fully set forth in the applicable Local Area Agreement as attached as Schedule A for work on the Project for each craft employed by the Contractor. All employees covered by this Agreement shall be classified in accordance with the work performed.

Section 10. The Contractors agree to pay contributions to the established employee benefit funds in the amounts designated in the Local Area Labor Agreements attached as Schedule A.

Contractors that are not signatory to a collective bargaining agreement beyond the scope of this Agreement (“PLA contractor”) may select to participate in the legally established Industry Health Reimbursement Arrangement (“HRA”) plan, in lieu of contributing to the respective bona fide benefit funds as designated in Schedule A. The amount of the contribution is based on the difference between the contribution amount of the bona fide Schedule A benefit funds and the cost of the PLA contractors’ bona fide non-discretionary plans. Contributions must be made on behalf of named employees. Participating contractors will submit to the Trustees of the HRA trust and plan a copy of their plan, summary plan description, and the premium structure for workers covered under the PLA contractor’s bona fide, non-discretionary plans. The value of the PLA contractor’s benefit plans are subject to confirmation by the Trustees of the HRA trust and plan. This may include an independent audit according to a policy as established by the Trustees. Contractors are required to submit certified payroll reports to the Trustees or authorized administrator in order to confirm compliance with the terms of the HRA trust and plan.

The Contractors adopt and agree to be bound by the written terms of the legally-established Trust Agreements (or in lieu thereof, the aforementioned HRA plan and trust including any policies)

specifying the detailed basis on which payments are to be made into, and benefits paid out of, such Trust Funds. The Contractors authorize the parties to such Trust Agreements to appoint trustees and successor trustees to administer the Trust funds and hereby ratify and accept the Trustees so appointed as if made by the Contractors.

Section 11. All workers delivering fill, sand, gravel, crushed rock, transit/concrete mix, ready mix, asphalt or other similar material and all workers removing any materials from the construction site shall receive a total package of wages and benefits at least and not lower than the wages and benefits provided for in the then current Highway, Heavy Construction Agreement between Teamsters Local 346 and the Associated General Contractors of America, or the Highway Heavy Prevailing Wage Schedule, whichever is greater.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **UNION RECOGNITION AND UNION SECURITY**

Section 1. The Contractors recognize the signatory Unions as the sole and exclusive bargaining representatives of all craft employees within their respective jurisdictions working on the Project within the scope of this Agreement.

Section 2. All employees covered by this Agreement now in the employ of the Contractor shall remain members in good standing in their respective Unions during the term of the Agreement and all employees hereinafter employed by the Contractor will become members of the respective Unions within seven (7) days after the date of their employment and shall remain members of the Unions in good standing during the term of this Agreement.

Section 3. Authorized representatives of the Union shall have access to the Project, provided they do not interfere with the work of employees and further provided that such representatives comply fully with the posted visitor and security and safety rules of the Project.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **REFERRAL OF EMPLOYEES**

Applicants for the various classifications covered by this Agreement required by the Employer or Contractors on the Project shall be referred to the Contractors by the Unions. The Unions represent that its local unions administer and control their referrals and it is agreed that these referrals will be made in a non-discriminatory manner and in full compliance with Federal and State laws.

## ARTICLE V

### MANAGEMENT'S RIGHTS

The Project Contractor and Contractors of whatever tier retain full and exclusive authority for the management of their operations. Except as otherwise limited by the terms of this Agreement or the applicable local area agreements, the Contractors shall direct their working forces at their prerogative, including, but not limited to hiring, promotion, transfer, lay-off or discharge for just cause.

## ARTICLE VI

### WORK STOPPAGES AND LOCKOUTS

Section 1. During the term of this Agreement there shall be no strikes, picketing, work stoppages, slow downs or other disruptive activity for any reason by the Unions or by any employee, and there shall be no lockout by the Contractor. Failure of any Union or employee to cross any picket line established at the Project site is a violation of this Article.

Section 2. The Unions shall not sanction, aid or abet, encourage or continue any work stoppage, strike, picketing or other disruptive activity at the Contractor's project site and shall undertake all reasonable means to prevent or to terminate any such activity. No employee shall engage in activities which violate this Article. Any employee who participates in or encourages any activities which interfere with the normal operation of the Project shall be subject to disciplinary action, including discharge, and if justifiably discharged for the above reasons, shall not be eligible for rehire on the Project for a period of not less than thirty (30) days.

Section 3. The Unions shall not be liable for acts of employees for whom it has no responsibility. The International Union General President or Presidents will immediately instruct, order and use the best efforts of his office to cause the Local Union or Unions to cease any violations of this Article. An International Union complying with this obligation shall not be liable for unauthorized acts of its Local Union. The principal officer or officers of a Local Union will immediately instruct, order and use the best efforts of his office to cause the employees the Local Union represents to cease any violations of this Article. A Local Union complying with this obligation shall not be liable for unauthorized acts of employees it represents. The failure of the Contractor to exercise its right in any instance shall not be deemed a waiver of its right in any other instance.

Section 4. Any party alleging a breach of this Article shall have the right to petition a court for temporary and permanent injunctive relief. The moving party need not show the existence of irreparable harm, and shall be required to post bond only to secure payment of court costs and attorney fees as may be awarded by the Court.

## ARTICLE VII

### **DISPUTES AND GRIEVANCES**

Section 1. This Agreement is intended to provide close cooperation between management and labor. Each of the Unions will assign a representative to this Project for the purpose of completing the construction of the Project economically, efficiently, continuously, and without interruptions, delays, or work stoppages.

Section 2. The Contractors, Unions, and the employees, collectively and individually realize the importance to all parties to maintain continuous and uninterrupted performance of the work on the Project, and agree to resolve disputes in accordance with the grievance-arbitration provisions set forth in this Article.

Section 3. Any question or dispute arising out of and during the term of this Project Labor Agreement (other than trade jurisdictional disputes) shall be considered a grievance and subject to resolution under the following procedures:

Step 1. (a) When an employee subject to the provisions of this Agreement feels he or she is aggrieved by a violation of this Agreement, he or she, through his or her local union business representative or job steward, shall, within ten (10) working days after the occurrence of the violation, or knowledge of the violation, give notice to the work-site representative of the involved Contractor stating the provision(s) of the Local Area Agreement and/or this PLA alleged to have been violated. The business representative of the local union or the job steward and the work-site representative of the involved Contractor and the Project Contractor shall meet and endeavor to adjust the matter within three (3) working days after timely notice has been given. The representative of the Contractor shall keep the meeting minutes and shall respond to the Union representative in writing (copying the Project Contractor) at the conclusion of the meeting but not later than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter. If they fail to resolve the matter within the prescribed period, the grieving party may, within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter, pursue Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure, provided the grievance is reduced to writing, setting forth the relevant information concerning the alleged grievance, including a short description thereof, the date on which the grievance occurred, and the provision(s) of the Local Area Agreement and/or this PLA alleged to have been violated.

(b) Should the Local Union(s) or the Project Contractor or any Contractor have a dispute with the other party and, if after conferring, a settlement is not reached within seven (7) working days, the dispute may be reduced to writing and proceed to Step 2 in the same manner as outlined herein for the adjustment of an employee complaint.

Step 2. The Business Manager or his or her designee of a Local Union and the involved Contractor shall meet within seven (7) working days of the referral of a dispute to this second step to arrive at a satisfactory settlement thereof. Meeting minutes shall be kept by the Contractor. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, the dispute may be appealed in writing in accordance with the provisions of Step 3 within seven (7) calendar days thereafter.

Step 3. (a) If the grievance has been submitted but not adjusted under Step 2, either party may request in writing, within seven(7) calendar days thereafter, that the grievance be submitted to an Arbitrator mutually agreed upon by them. The Contractor and the involved Union shall attempt mutually to select an arbitrator, but if they are unable to do so, they shall request the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to provide them with a list of seven (7) neutral arbitrators from which the Arbitrator shall be selected. The parties shall alternatively strike arbitrators from the list until one remains, who shall preside at the hearing. The party striking first shall be determined by the flip of a coin. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties. The fee and expenses of such Arbitration shall be borne equally by the Contractor and the involved Local Union(s).

(b) Failure of the grieving party to adhere to the time limits established herein shall render the grievance null and void. The time limits established herein may be extended only by written consent of the parties involved at the particular step where the extension is agreed upon. The Arbitrator shall have the authority to make decisions only on issues presented to him or her, and he or she shall not have authority to change, amend, add to or detract from any of the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 4. The Project Contractor and Owner shall be notified of all actions at Steps 2 and 3 and shall, upon their request, be permitted to participate in all proceedings at these steps.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES**

Section 1. The assignment of work will be solely the responsibility of the Contractor performing the work involved; and such work assignments will be in accordance with the Plan for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes in the Construction Industry (the "Plan") or any successor Plan.

Section 2. All jurisdictional disputes on this Project, between or among Building and Construction Trades Unions and employers, parties to this Agreement, shall be settled and adjusted according to the present Plan established by the Building and Construction Trades Department or any other plan or method of procedure that may be adopted in the future by the Building and Construction Trades Department. Decisions rendered shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Contractors and Unions parties to this Agreement.

Section 3. All jurisdictional disputes shall be resolved without the occurrence of any strike, work stoppage, or slow-down of any nature, and the Contractor's assignment shall be adhered to until the dispute is resolved. Individuals violating this section shall be subject to immediate discharge.

Section 4. Each Contractor will conduct a pre-job conference with the appropriate Building and Construction Trades Council prior to commencing work. The Project Contractor and the Owner will be advised in advance of all such conferences and may participate if they wish.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **SUBCONTRACTING**

The Project Contractor agrees that neither it nor any of its contractors or subcontractors will subcontract any work to be done on the Project except to a person, firm or corporation who is or agrees to become party to this Agreement. Any contractor or subcontractor working on the Project shall, as a condition to working on said Project, become signatory to and perform all work under the terms of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **HELMETS TO HARDHATS**

Section 1. The Employers and Unions recognize a desire to facilitate the entry into the building and construction trades of veterans who are interested in careers in the building and construction industry. The Employers and Unions agree to utilize the services of the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment (hereinafter “Center”) and the Center’s “Helmets to Hardhats” program to serve as a resource for preliminary orientation, assessment of construction aptitude, referral to apprenticeship programs or hiring halls, counseling and mentoring, support network, employment opportunities and other needs as identified by the parties.

Section 2. The Unions and Employers agree to coordinate with the Center to create and maintain an integrated database of veterans interested in working on this Project and of apprenticeship and employment opportunities for this Project. To the extent permitted by law, the Unions will give credit to such veterans for bona fide, provable past experience.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **LABOR HARMONY CLAUSE**

The contractor shall furnish labor that can work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed on the Project and shall submit a labor harmony plan to demonstrate how this will be done. “Harmony” shall include the provision of labor that will not, either directly or indirectly, cause or give rise to any work disruptions, slow downs, picketing, stoppages, or any violence or harm to any person or property while performing any work, or activities incidental thereto at the Project. The labor harmony plan should include the company’s labor management policies, collective bargaining agreements if any and their expiration dates, past labor relations history, a listing of activities anticipated under this contract that may potentially cause friction with on-site workers, and procedures the company will undertake to eliminate this friction.

The contractor agrees that it shall require every lower-tier subcontractor to provide labor that will work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed in the work, and will include the

provisions contained in the paragraph above, in every lower-tier subcontract let for work under this contract.

The requirement to provide labor that can work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed in the work throughout the contract performance is a material element of this contract. Failure by the contractor or any of its lower-tier subcontractors to comply with this requirement shall be deemed a material breach of the contract which will subject the contractor to all rights and remedies the Owner or Project Contractor may have, including without limitation the right to terminate the contract.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **NO DISCRIMINATION**

Section 1. The Contractor and Union agree that they will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of his or her membership or non-membership in a Union or based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin or age in any manner prohibited by law or regulation.

Section 2. Any complaints regarding application of the provisions of Section 1, should be brought to the immediate attention of the involved Contractor for consideration and resolution.

Section 3. The use of the masculine or feminine gender in this Agreement shall be construed as including both genders.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **SAVINGS AND SEPARABILITY**

It is not the intention of the parties to violate any laws governing the subject matter of this Agreement. The parties hereto agree that in the event any provisions of the Agreement are finally held or determined to be illegal or void as being in contravention of any applicable law, the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect unless the part or parts so found to be void are wholly inseparable from the remaining portions of this Agreement. Further, the Contractor and Union agree that if and when any and all provisions of this Agreement are finally held or determined to be illegal or void by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the parties will promptly enter into negotiations concerning the substance affected by such decision for the purpose of achieving conformity with the requirements of an applicable law and the intent of the parties hereto.

**ARTICLE XIV**

**DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

The Project Labor Agreement shall be effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 and shall continue in effect for the duration of the Project construction work described in Article II hereof. Construction of any phase, portion, section or segment of the project shall be deemed complete when such phase, portion, section or segment has been turned over to the Owner and has received the final acceptance from the Owner's representative.

Since there are provisions herein for no strikes or lockouts in the event any changes are negotiated and implemented under a Local Area Agreement during the term of this Agreement, the Contractor agrees that, except as specified herein, such changes shall be recognized and shall apply retroactively to the termination date in the particular Local Agreement involved. Each Contractor which has a Local Agreement with a Union at the time that its contract at the project commences shall continue it in effect with each said Union so long as the Contractor remains on the project. In the event any such Local Area Agreement expires, the Contractor shall abide by all of the terms of the expired Local Agreement until agreement is reached on a new Local Agreement, with any changes being subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

The Union agrees that there will be no strikes, work stoppages, sympathy actions, picketing, slowdowns or other disruptive activity affecting the Project by any Union involved in the negotiation of a Local Area Agreement nor shall there be any lockout on this Project affecting the Union during the course of such negotiations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Agreement to be effective as of the day and year above written.

OWNER

PROJECT CONTRACTOR

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

DULUTH BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES COUNCIL

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SCHEDULE “A”**

- A-1 Asbestos Workers Local 49
- A-2 Boilermakers Local 647
- A-3 BAC Local 1 Chapter 3 Duluth & Iron Range
- A-4 Carpenters Local 361
- A-5 Cements Masons/Plasterers Local 633
- A-6 Elevator Constructors Local 9
- A-7 IBEW Local 242
- A-8 Iron Workers Local 512
- A-9 Laborers Local 1091
- A-10 Millwrights Local 1348
- A-11 Operating Engineers Local 49
- A-12 Painters & Allied Trades Local 106
- A-13 Plumbers & Fitters Local 11
- A-14 Roofers Local 96
- A-15 Sheet Metal Workers Local 10
- A-16 Sprinkler Fitters Local 669
- A-17 Teamsters Local 346

**AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND  
PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT**

The undersigned EMPLOYER agrees that it has reviewed a copy of the Project Labor Agreement for the \_\_\_\_\_ Project located in \_\_\_\_\_, Minnesota with the Duluth Building and Construction Trades Council and further agrees to become a party to and bound to the foregoing Agreement.

Attest:

SIGNED FOR THE EMPLOYER:

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No., Job Site and/or Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
By

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title