

# International Search for Workers' Assembly Halls for UNESCO World Heritage Nomination

## We need your help!

### Mission

The labour movement is one of the major forces that has shaped international relations, national societies, and the lives of individual people during the past 150 years.

*Based on the values of liberty, equality, and solidarity and with the organisation of wage workers as the central source of strength, the labour movement holds **outstanding universal value as a social and cultural phenomenon**.* Through an international effort led by Denmark, a nomination of workers' assembly halls is being prepared for the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Previous research has identified a number of still existing workers' assembly halls, trade union halls, labour union halls, labor temples, and labor lyceums across Western Europe, Australia, and North America.

**Now we need your help to identify workers' assembly halls especially in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.** A central point of the UNESCO nomination is to show the global presence of the labour movement, but also how the organisation of workers developed under the influence of local circumstances and took on distinct appearances in different parts of the world.

By assembling a list of buildings testifying both to the common goals of community, welfare and democracy, as well as to the regional characteristics of the labour movement, we hope to help preserve this unique heritage and provide a source of reflection for future generations in shaping their world.

## How can you help?

If you are aware of a workers' assembly hall or a building used as a meeting place for workers in your country or region, you should encourage the owners or management of the building to contact us at [mbr@arbejdermuseet.dk](mailto:mbr@arbejdermuseet.dk). *Please see additional contacts details below.*

We will then begin a dialogue with the representatives of the building in order to clarify how well it meets the extensive criteria for a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will be happy to hear from you even if the management of the building does not wish to contact us, in order for us to keep a list of still existing workers' assembly halls.

**Please feel free to share this with people and organisations you think would be interested.** And please let us know if there is anything, we can do to support your contribution to the search.

### **In order to be relevant for the project, the buildings must live up to the following criteria:**

- The building was established by and/or for workers with the involvement of the labour movement.
- The building was used for the daily activities of the labour movement and ideally include facilities such as a meeting hall, offices, and possibly kitchen facilities in order to support political meetings, education of workers, social and cultural gatherings, assembly of workers and social network.
- Even if the building is no longer in use as a workers' assembly hall, it must still display the architectural layout that testifies to its use as an assembly hall.
- In general, the building must have been in use by the labour movement before 1950. But since the labour movement developed differently in individual countries, buildings established later than 1950 may be relevant if they testify to the establishment of a labour movement in a particular country.

## Who is behind the project?

In 2018, the proposal was inscribed on the Danish UNESCO World Heritage tentative list, and the project is coordinated by The Workers Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces as State Party provides for the joint submission for a future transnational nomination.

These five assembly halls partner the project:



### ■ Paasitorni

Helsinki, Finland. Built in 1908.

[www.paasitorni.fi](http://www.paasitorni.fi)



### ■ Feestlokaal van Vooruit

Ghent, Belgium. Built 1913.

[www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)



### ■ The Victorian Trades Hall

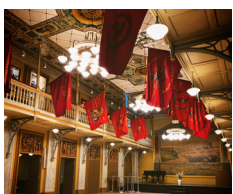
Melbourne, Australia. Founded in 1859.

[www.weareunion.org.au](http://www.weareunion.org.au)



### ■ Broken Hill Trades Hall

Broken Hill, Australia. Built from 1898-1905.



### ■ The Workers' Assembly Hall

Copenhagen, Denmark. Now the Workers Museum. Built in 1879.

[www.arbejdermuseet.dk](http://www.arbejdermuseet.dk)

## Further information

Read more about the project here: [www.arbejdernuseet.dk/unesco/](http://www.arbejdernuseet.dk/unesco/)

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/235650211682186>

## Contact

Any inquiries about the project should be addressed to:

- **The Workers Museum**  
Rømersgade 22  
DK-1362 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

*Att. Marie Brøndgaard, Project Leader, M.A.*

Email: [mbr@arbejdernuseet.dk](mailto:mbr@arbejdernuseet.dk)

Phone: +(45) 91 89 67 74

---

### Kind regards

Morten Skov Christiansen

*Chairman of The Workers Museum, Vice Chairman of the Danish Trade Union Confederation*

Dr. Søren Bak-Jensen

*M.A., Director of The Workers Museum*

*Copenhagen, April 2021*