

November 9, 2018

Dear ASTR Members,

Workers at the Westin Gaslamp have been on strike for over a month. We made the decision to strike after negotiating with Marriott Corporation (operator of the Westin Gaslamp) for months for better and safer working conditions, wages we can live on and dignity on the job. It was not an easy decision for us to make, but we made it to provide a better future for our families.

We are calling on the world's single, largest hotel company to provide jobs that are enough to live on. Marriott workers struggle to make ends meet as our wages fail to keep up with skyrocketing costs of living. We are subjected to unsafe working conditions by the so-called 'Your Choice' program that creates dangerous workloads for some housekeepers while slashing the hours of others. We lack basic job security or a seat at the table as the industry navigates through new technologies and automation.

We were forced to take these steps because Marriott failed to resolve issues that are crucial to our lives.

We understand that moving your event was not an easy decision to make, and that it may cause financial hardship for your organization and your members. We are thankful to the American Society for Theatre Research for upholding the values of your members and deciding to move your event instead of crossing our strike line. We believe your decision was the right one and one that will show Marriott that customers will stand with the workers and make difficult decisions when given the choice.

Sincerely,

Striking workers at the Westin Gaslamp