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Union Job and Resource Fair at East Side Freedom Library April 14, 2016

Saint Paul, Minnesota, April 4, 2016 – East Side Freedom Library

The first-ever Union Job and Resource Fair will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 from 3:00-7:00pm at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Employers will be hiring for union positions in such fields as Construction, Manufacturing, Government, School Building Custodial and Food Service Work, Healthcare, Hospitality and Retail. Union representatives will be on hand to discuss “earn-while-you-learn” high-quality paid vocational training opportunities and answer questions. Information will be available on the advantages of union membership, neighborhood and national union history, and record expungement. The event is designed not only for ready-to-hire job seekers, but for young people exploring how to build their career paths in the future and even people wondering: “What is a union? What do they do?” People who speak many languages will be available to greet and interpret at the event. Positively EVERYONE is welcome to attend.

The event is hosted by a team of partnering organizations: labor organizations, cultural and employment service agencies, the City of St. Paul, District 5 and District 1 Planning Councils and the East Side Freedom Library.

“I often see job fairs being held in far-flung parts of the Metro Area,” says José Santos, Jr., Employment Services Manager at Merrick Community Services, “It’s great to have more of this kind of event on the East Side, in Payne-Phalen.”

“The higher-wage, union-job orientation of this fair makes it stand out as particularly worthwhile to attend,” adds Daud Mohamed, Director of Community Outreach for Ka Joog organization.

“Unions built the American middle class, and a union job remains the best way for working people to secure livable wages and decent health and retirement benefits,” says Bobby Kasper, President of the 50,000-member Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. “As a labor movement, we need to raise awareness about the value of a union contract, especially among immigrant communities and young workers. This job fair is an exciting opportunity to extend our outreach and build new relationships on the East Side, and we’re proud to be a part of it.”

For more information about the Union Job and Resource Fair, please contact: Prof. Peter Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library, 651-230-3294, rachleff@macalester.edu

About the East Side Freedom Library

The ESFL’s mission is to inspire solidarity, advocate for justice and work toward equity for all. The library houses non-circulating research collections that appeal to interested general learners as well as scholars, with innovative databases and finding aids that make using the collections fun and vital.

Story is a major theme of the ESFL, and the telling and gathering of stories, through formal interviews, workshops, and small-scale public performances, will allow local residents and interested publics to learn more about the work and residential histories of the East Side.

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