

ACTIVISTS AND ARTISTS READY TO FIGHT FOR THEIR BUILDING

On Saturday, January 12, at 9:30 a.m., labor, community and cultural leaders will hold a press rally to advocate for the preservation of the Redstone Labor Temple building. The building has been a hub of social and economic justice organizing since its construction more than 100 years ago.

The press rally will take place in the Lab, an experimental art space, at 2940 - 16th Street, between Mission and South Van Ness Ave., as part of the opening session of the Congress of the People which will happen between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Tenants formed the Redstone Labor Temple Association to defend against the threat of predatory developers who seek to profit by clearing the building of its low-budget advocacy organizations and artists.

The San Francisco Labor Council built the Labor Temple in 1914. It was the epicenter of organizing for the San Francisco General Strike, which many historians believe established San Francisco as a "union town." The San Francisco Labor Council and the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee passed resolutions calling on the City and County of San Francisco to make all efforts to preserve the building as a community center.

The Lab was featured on the front page of the December 31 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle, in an article that reported that the Mission Economic Development Agency is seeking to purchase the building to protect current tenants from eviction and keep it as a community center for political and labor organizing and cultural activism.

Speakers:

Rudy Gonzalez, executive director of the San Francisco Labor Council; Olga Miranda, secretary treasurer San Francisco Labor Council; Gary Gregerson, president of the Redstone Labor Temple Association and member of the San Francisco Committee on Political Education for SEIU Local 1021; Dena Beard, executive director of the Lab; Jessy D'Santos, program director of El/La Para TransLatinas; and others.