Building Our Future Together

WISCONSIN
BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

“Let the workers organize….
Let all thoughtful citizens sustain them, for the future of Labor is the future of America.”

—John L. Lewis

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The Wisconsin Building Trades Council (WBTC) is a central labor body that fosters relationships with seven regional building trades councils in the state.

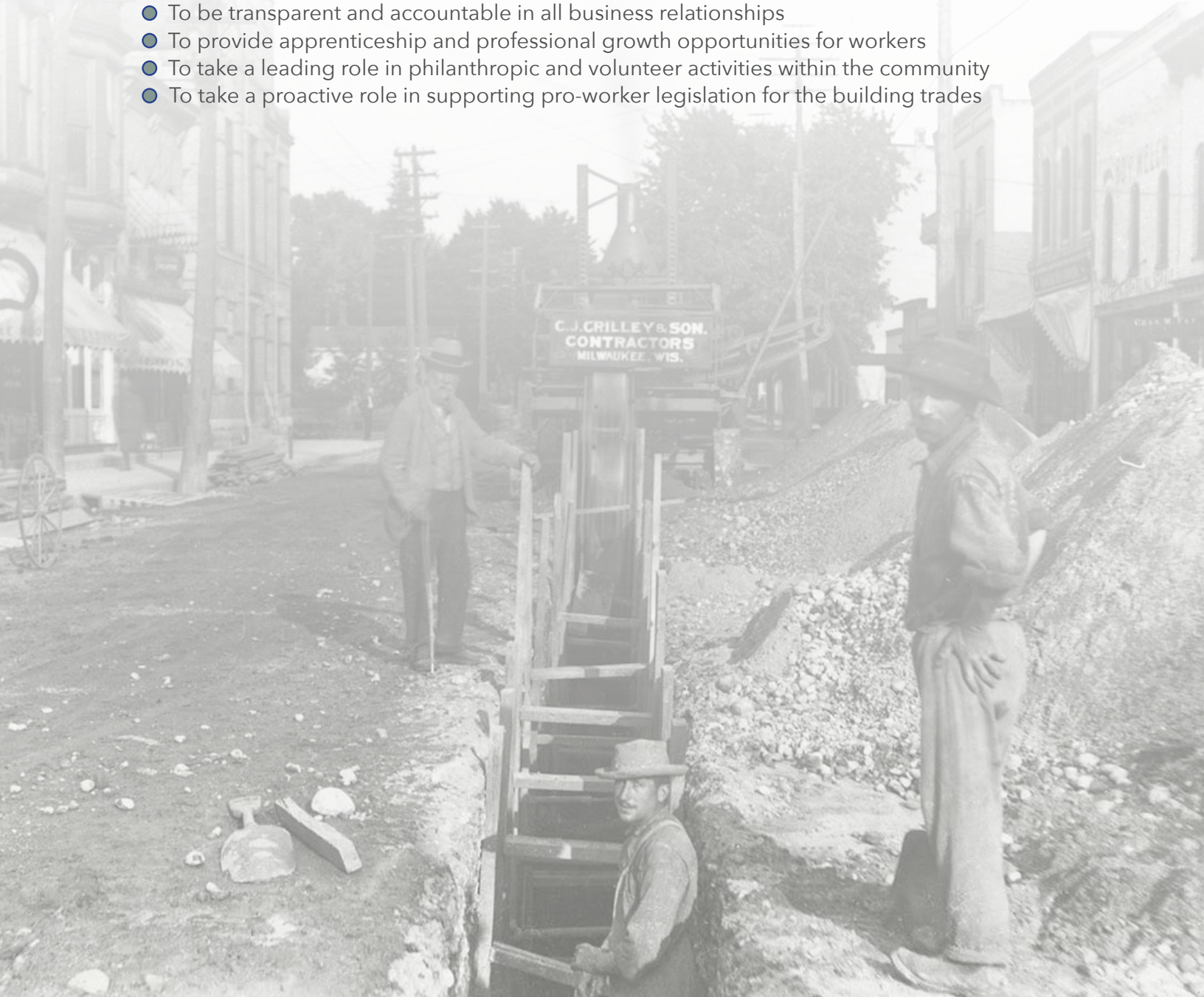
Its 15 member unions cover every building trade and work together to create a stronger, healthier and more successful future for our workforce, our communities and our state.

- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers And Helpers Union 107
- Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers District Council of Wisconsin
- North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- International Union of Elevator Constructors
- International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
- Ironworkers District Council of North Central States
- The Wisconsin Laborers’ District Council
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 7 & DC 82
- United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, & Allied Workers
- International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers Local 18 And Local 10
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 200
- The Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association
- Operative Plasterers’ and Cement Masons’ Local 599

OUR HISTORY OF SUPPORTING WORKERS ENSURES A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

The Wisconsin Building Trades Council was founded in 2018 to carry on the proud traditions of our member unions – many of which have been working for workers' rights for over 130 years. Today the WBTC supports and furthers the efforts of 15 different unions in the building trades with 73 locals and over 40,000 members overall. All are working together:

- To pursue the highest level of performance and technical knowledge in their industries
- To maintain a position as the preferred choice for commercial construction in the state
- To create a steady stream of work for union members
- To fight for The Prevailing Wage for all union members
- To ensure on-site compliance with safety and health regulations
- To foster a workforce diverse in ethnicity and gender
- To be transparent and accountable in all business relationships
- To provide apprenticeship and professional growth opportunities for workers
- To take a leading role in philanthropic and volunteer activities within the community
- To take a proactive role in supporting pro-worker legislation for the building trades



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REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS THE START OF A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

The apprentice tradition in the building trades is as old as the pyramids. Yet WBTC training programs specialize in teaching space age technology and techniques in trades from plastering to elevator construction. In addition to the ability to earn while they learn, apprentices are attracted to the building trades because they know they'll be contributing to the future prosperity of their communities as well as their families. And when they graduate, there are no school loans to pay off.

Apprentices can enter programs through various routes – including introductory high school programs, community colleges, or even after experience as a non-union worker. To be successful, apprentices need to be ready to learn new skills, adapt to new concepts and apply what they learn to real life situations. They also must be team players and make helping others as much a part of their work ethic as showing up on time and finishing every task as quickly and efficiently as possible.

- WBTC apprenticeships are available with 15 different unions
- A vast network of 15 different training programs with sites located throughout the state which supports more than 6,500 apprentices throughout the state accounting for nearly 80% of Wisconsin's registered apprenticeship program.
- Apprenticeships are privately funded by contractors and the union
- $35,000,000+ is invested in apprenticeship programs every year
- Depending on the trade, programs take between three to five years to complete
- All apprentices are paid throughout the course of their apprenticeship
- All people holding a GED or High School Diploma 18+ years of age can apply
- Over 1,000 workers graduate from apprenticeship programs annually
- A WBTC apprenticeship demands more education hours than a bachelor degree
- WBTC apprentices exhibit a higher rate of completion and retention than workers overall

A CAREER IN BUILDING IS ALWAYS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Every professional – from surgeons to musicians – know that learning new techniques and acquiring knowledge is essential to staying at the top of their field. In these days of constantly changing technology, styles and materials, this is certainly true for the building trades. The WBTC is committed to creating opportunities for its members to continuously upgrade their skills. We strive for perfection and excellence is always our result. That's why they are so valued by contractors, builders, municipalities and all who use their services.

Our members are people who take pride in their families, homes and communities. They volunteer their services to charities, donate their time and talent to work on projects for the community, and serve as mentors to young people interested in entering the trades.

WBTC MEMBERS CONSTRUCT COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS STRUCTURES

Our unions are seeking to become reflective of our community. Ensuring our union workforce is inclusive and diverse is a priority of our affiliate unions and we strive to be reflective of our state. While the Wisconsin Building Trades Unions are the most diverse pool of construction workers in the state, we have a long way to go to fulfill our commitment and obligation to women and communities of color and to uplift them with life-sustaining careers.

- Creating a sense of community among the building trades
- Taking the lead in fostering diversity in the workforce
- Encouraging volunteerism and philanthropy among members
- Supporting innovation and efficiency in the trades
- Initiating and maintaining the highest standards in all the trades

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS ENSURE VALUE, FAIRNESS AND EFFICIENCY FOR ALL

Every year dozens of construction projects are undertaken throughout the state utilizing Project Labor Agreements. These are written arrangements defining the details of a job so the builder or contractor is assured the best value for their financial investment and workers are guaranteed a certain wage.

A typical PLA might include the following:

- Contractors and subcontractors will pay a negotiated wage to their workers
- Workers will follow union work rules and comply with union hiring practices
- The union will ensure that work will continue uninterrupted
- Builders will have access to the most skilled and productive workers available
- Ensures a consistent and competitive bidding process leveling the playing field.

ALEX LASRY
Senior Vice President,
Milwaukee Bucks

A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) makes sense for the Bucks and the Fiserv Forum project. By entering a Project Labor Agreement, the Bucks understood that this opportunity would be an economic boost for the local businesses and workers in Milwaukee, and would catapult registered apprentices alongside Journeymen and Journeywomen who are the make-up of the highly skilled construction workforce who worked efficiently and helped save time and money on this project.

To further the benefits of the Project Labor Agreement, we were successful and surpassed our local hiring and inclusion goals, more than 42% of construction hours worked were by residents of Milwaukee and the Bucks invested $103.6 million in Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Small Business Enterprise, or Small Disadvantaged Business throughout Milwaukee.

Like dozens of other sports venues, hotels, and facilities throughout Wisconsin, Project Labor Agreements are most commonly used on large and complex construction projects that require multiple contractors with the aim of standardizing the terms and conditions of employment among all of the contractors and workers we were able to meet our goals of project completion that is on time, on budget.

Globally, Fiserv Forum is known as a crown jewel of sports entertainment venues, we love that Milwaukee, Wisconsin is our home and we are proud to have Wisconsinites to work with. When it comes to Project Labor Agreements, there are no questions, this is right for our business and the community.

Advocates for the WBTC work to educate elected officials of both political parties in local, state, and federal governments on the importance of a fair hourly wage, safe working conditions, and support for emerging energy technologies. The building industry represents a significant part of Wisconsin's economy, and we want to make sure our members always have a voice in decisions impacting their income, working conditions, and job security.

EMPOWERING WISCONSIN WORKERS

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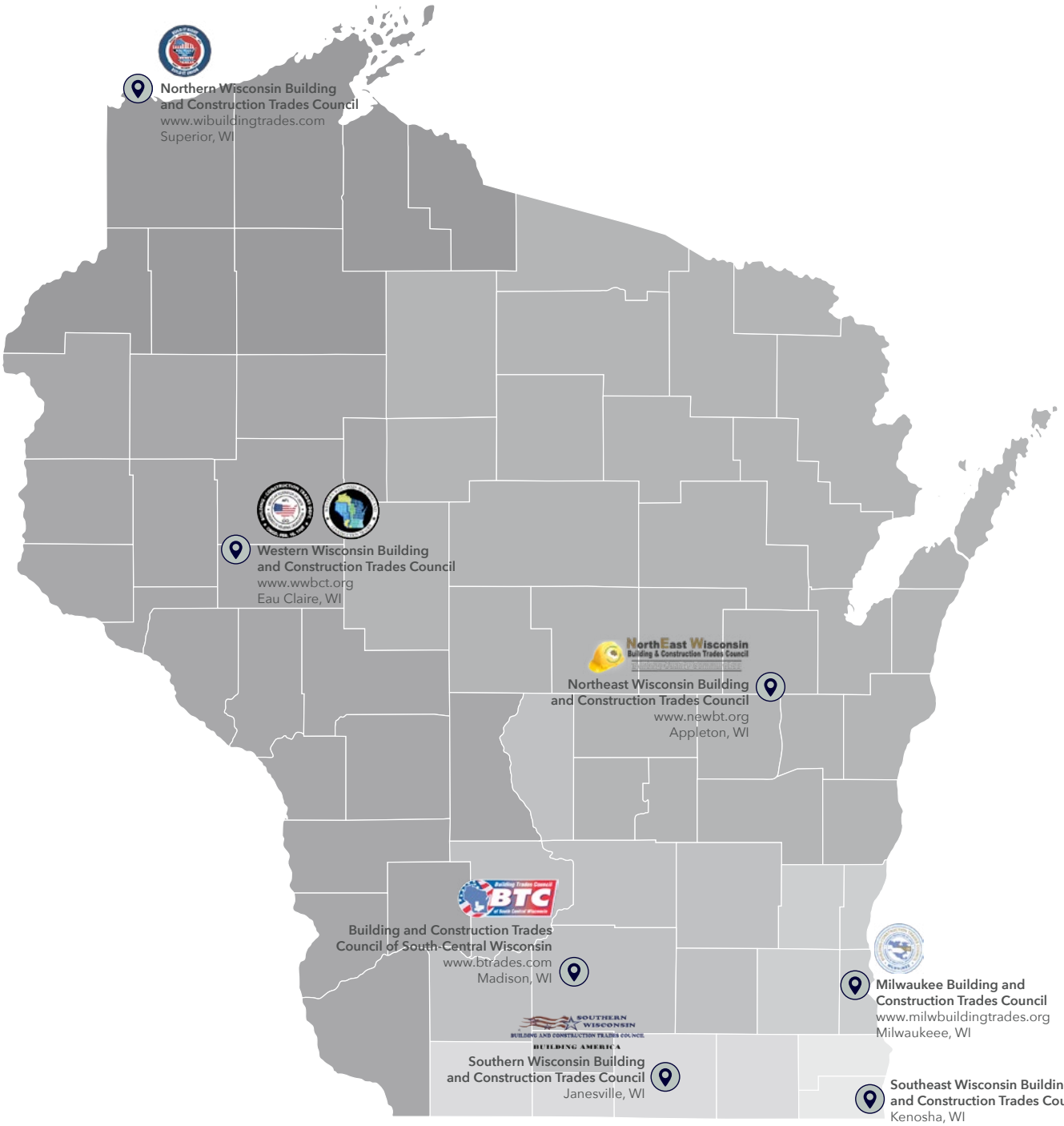
The Wisconsin Building Trades Council

Composed of Seven Regional Councils Serving Our State



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