

MSG Las Vegas Inks Deal With Unions Over New \$2B Venue

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Byline: Joyce Hanson

Highlight: Culinary and bartenders unions say they have signed an agreement with MSG Las Vegas LLC to give workers the right to decide whether they want to unionize at Sphere, an estimated \$2 billion "next generation" entertainment venue seating 18,000 that's slated to open in the fall.

Body

Culinary and bartenders unions say they have signed an agreement with MSG Las Vegas LLC to give workers the right to decide whether they want to unionize at Sphere, an estimated \$2 billion "next generation" entertainment venue seating 18,000 that's slated to open in the fall.

Culinary Workers Union Local 226 and Bartenders Union Local 165 have signed a deal with MSG Las Vegas LLC that gives workers the right to decide whether to unionize in Vegas' splashy new \$2B entertainment venue seating 18,000. (Sphere Entertainment Group) Culinary Workers Union Local 226 and Bartenders Union Local 165's deal with MSG Las Vegas, a part of Sphere Entertainment Co., will let workers at Sphere choose whether to have union representation under a card check neutrality agreement, Culinary Union Secretary-Treasurer Ted Pappageorge said Monday.

"The card check neutrality agreement, which is a standard for hospitality workers in Nevada, will ensure workers have the right to choose whether to have the Culinary and Bartenders Union represent them, while management remains neutral and respects their choice," Pappageorge said in a statement.

The two unions are Nevada affiliates of Unite Here, and represent 60,000 workers at casino resorts on the Las Vegas Strip and in Downtown Las Vegas, as well as in Reno.

Sphere officials could not be reached immediately for comment Tuesday.

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The new venue located near the Venetian Resort, previously referred to as MSG Sphere, is a massive spherical music and entertainment arena near the Las Vegas Strip. Built at a cost of approximately \$2 billion, Sphere is set for an official Sept. 29 opening with a residency by U2.

Company officials have touted Sphere as a "next-generation entertainment medium" powered by cutting-edge technologies that will host shows by Hollywood directors and worldwide performance artists.

"We are redefining the future of entertainment through Sphere," James L. Dolan, executive chairman and CEO of MSG Entertainment Corp., said in an April statement. "Sphere provides a new medium for directors, artists, and brands to create experiences that cannot be seen or told anywhere else."

The project was initially a partnership between Madison Square Garden Co. and Las Vegas Sands Corp.

In March, the board of directors for Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp., guided by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, approved a spinoff of its traditional live entertainment business.

The new public entertainment company has taken the name Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp. and includes the entertainment and sports booking business plus a variety of performance venues, including Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall.

The current parent company was renamed Sphere Entertainment Co. and includes MSG Networks, Tao Group Hospitality and the entertainment venue Sphere.

In other Vegas union activity, the operators of the Venetian and Palazzo resorts and four local unions reached neutrality agreements allowing workers to unionize without going through a National Labor Relations Board election, the unions announced June 27.

In a joint statement, Culinary Workers Union Local 226, Bartenders Union Local 165, Teamsters Local 986 and Operating Engineers Local 501 said they reached the so-called card check neutrality agreements with the Venetian Resort Las Vegas and The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort.

Under such agreements, an employer will recognize a union if a majority of its workforce signs membership cards, rather than requiring the union to go through the election process before the NLRB.

The unions said that the agreement is significant as the Venetian and Palazzo were the only casinos on the Las Vegas Strip that were not unionized, and that they look forward to conversations with workers.

--Editing by Patrick Reagan.

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