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January 1, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Grabski, Director, Lawrence History Center, 978-686-9230

Lawrence History Center to open exhibit, *Short pay! All out! The Great Lawrence Strike of 1912*, on January 12, 2012

LAWRENCE—The Lawrence History Center will open a bilingual exhibit, *Short pay! All out! The Great Lawrence Strike of 1912*, on January 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. on the sixth floor of the Everett Mill (15 Union St., Lawrence, MA) to commemorate the Centennial of the Bread and Roses Strike. This event will be free and open to the public. An online exhibit will also be unveiled.

Lawrence was a community in crisis long before payday on January 11, 1912 when workers, realizing yet another wage reduction, ran through the mills shouting “short pay!” and “strike!” The Strike, one of the most important events in labor history, prompted the nation to confront conflicting visions of community identity and struggle, civic culture, immigration and industrialization. It influenced public policy, helping construct some of the current social safety nets.

Short pay! All out! will engage visitors in the story of the textile strike through the use of powerful imagery, quotes from the Lawrence History Center oral history archive, objects and documents, video, and a stairwell sound installation that will recreate the sounds of the mills—the crowd noises, machinery, and the incredible multi-cultural energy of the 1912 Strike. The exhibit will weave together important themes—*What happened?*, *Who makes a community?*, *What makes a community?*, *Why strike?*, *What next?*, and *How do we remember?*—and visitors will have the opportunity to contribute their own reflections, photographs, artwork, and writing to this space, concluding their visit by connecting with a powerful community of memory and continuing action.

“The opening of “*Short pay! All out!*” is the first of many events planned in the City of Lawrence in 2012 – a launch party, if you will, for a year’s worth of citywide events commemorating the Centennial of the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912,” said Susan Grabski, Executive Director of the Lawrence History Center.

In 2012, *Short pay! All out!* will also act as a cultural space ideal for hosting lectures, meetings, exhibits, performances, and community gatherings relevant to the themes of the strike of 1912. Some of the events scheduled so far are:

- January 2012 - March 2012: An International Labor Poster Exhibit, by Stephen Lewis, SEIU Local 509
- March 10, 2012: The Revels Repertory Company performance of "An American Journey"
- April 2012 – June 2012: Exhibit of Lewis Hine’ Photos of Lawrence Children, By Joe Manning
- April 22, 2012 – May 5, 2012: Maine Labor Mural Project
- April 27-28, 2012: Academic Symposium
- June 2012: Follow the Thread: America’s Jewish Immigrants and the Birth of the Garment Industry

The exhibit will be open to the public Thursday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and by appointment. Please contact the Lawrence History Center to schedule your public or private

event at 978-686-9230.

Short pay! All out! is sponsored by the Lawrence History Center and funded in part by Mass Humanities, the Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation, Everett Mills Real Estate, the Rogers Family Foundation, UMass Lowell, Lawrence Cultural Council, and the Bread & Roses Centennial Committee.

Special thanks to:

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Videographer: Melissa Shook

Muralists: Lawrence High School Art Students & Faculty

Marianne Paley Nadel, Owner, Everett Mills

Essex Art Center

About the Lawrence History Center: The Lawrence History Center was founded in 1978 as Immigrant City Archives by German immigrant, Eartha Dengler. We are located in the complex of the Essex Company –which designed and built the city – at 6 Essex Street, Lawrence. The complex is included on the National Register of Historic Places. The mission of the Lawrence History Center is to collect, preserve, share, and interpret the history and heritage of Lawrence and its people. Our repository includes approximately 700 archival collections, 10,000 images, 400 books, 400 artifacts, and 800 oral history interviews. These collections include the bulk of the business and planning records of the Essex Company that created Lawrence. We utilize these materials through exhibits, educational programs and research services to foster understanding of the interaction of the built community and the lives of ordinary people. For more information, please visit: www.lawrencehistory.org.

About the Bread and Roses Centennial Committee:

Many organizations and individuals have worked for over a year to prepare a rich set of events designed to commemorate the strike and engage the city in a series of conversations about Lawrence's past and its future. Three upcoming major events being coordinated include an Academic Symposium sponsored by the Lawrence History Center, an exhibit of Ralph Fasanella original paintings sponsored by the Lawrence Heritage State Park, and the Bread & Roses Centennial Labor Day festival sponsored by the Bread & Roses Heritage Committee. For more information about all events taking place in the city in 2012, please visit: www.breadandrosescentennial.org/.