

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

April 4, 2024

SEATTLE – The Seattle Art Museum and representatives from the VSO Union met Monday for the sixth collective bargaining session of the year. It was the twenty-ninth bargaining session overall.

Several important proposals and counter proposals were passed during yesterday's session, and we are pleased to have reached tentative agreement (TA) on leaves of absence. This brings our total number of TAs to 30. We are closer to reaching agreement on a number of the remaining non-economic proposals such as sick time, temporary performance of supervisory duties, and meal and rest breaks.

While the Museum did not provide a comprehensive counter proposal to the latest Union economic position in this session, important work has been done by the SAM team to provide a comprehensive response this month, including anticipated improvements in several key areas emphasized by the Union.

The SAM bargaining team looks forward to continuing to work with the Union on the remaining outstanding elements as we make meaningful progress toward a fair contract. We appreciate the Union's sustained energy and engagement in this critical process, and a shared willingness to find different ways of working that ensure our time together remains productive.

We remain focused on being a constructive partner to reach a fair and mutually beneficial agreement that delivers on the most important elements for our Union members and the Museum. Our next bargaining session is scheduled for April 29. We will provide an update following that meeting.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.

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