

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

March 7, 2024

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum and representatives from the VSO Union met Tuesday for the fifth collective bargaining session of the year. It was the twenty-eighth bargaining session overall.

Our latest session included spirited and productive conversations about previously passed economic proposals, including SAM's most recent counterproposal on competitive wages. This helped us make appreciable progress toward a shared understanding of market wages by identifying relevant comparators and other considerations.

SAM and the VSO Union have continued to narrow the scope of open issues by agreeing in principle on two elements of the economic package -- guaranteed email/internet access and a dedicated shoe stipend - positive steps on which we hope to build. We continue to negotiate the suite of economic proposals as a full package, and, in an effort to expedite negotiations, continue to consider the Union's responses to the various elements of the economic package as we receive them. SAM also provided the Union with supplemental information and responses to their financial questions yesterday via email.

During Tuesday's bargaining session, SAM committed to responding to the VSO Union's economic proposal response—which included feedback on third shift differential, health insurance and longevity—at the next bargaining session.

We are encouraged by the progress made this week and remain optimistic that we will come to an agreement soon that aligns with our organization's values and delivers the greatest amount of good for our employees.

Our next bargaining session is scheduled for March 18. 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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1300 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

206.625.8900

seattleartmuseum.org

