

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

September 21, 2023

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum and VSO Union bargaining teams met in person Tuesday, September 19, for the nineteenth collective bargaining session, the eleventh meeting this year.

Tuesday's session included discussion of two new proposals from the VSO Union, including one on the use of museum meeting rooms and the other on protocols for distributing keys. We reached a tentative agreement (TA) on the use of SAM meeting rooms, in addition to a previously passed proposal on recognition, bringing the total number of TAs to 26.

The session also included a lively discussion about the 25 economic proposals that the VSO Union has passed to SAM over the course of a 10 month period, concluding in July 2023. We recognize that the VSO Union has worked hard throughout this extended period to provide SAM a full suite of economic proposals. The SAM team is committed to thoughtful and thorough review and evaluation of each proposal and is diligently working to put together a comprehensive response and move the process forward in a timely manner.

The VSO Union is currently reviewing several proposals from the SAM bargaining team related to important issues such as vacation time, holidays and hybrid posts, and we look forward to receiving responses from the Union soon.

Tuesday was consistent with previous sessions in its productive and collaborative approach to negotiations. Both teams recognize and appreciate the value of working together to advance our shared goals and move toward a mutually beneficial agreement.

Dates for the next two bargaining sessions have been set for October 3 and 30. We will provide a summary following each of those meetings.

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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