

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

November 2, 2023

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum bargaining team met in person with representatives from the VSO Union on Monday, October 30 for our twenty-first collective bargaining session. It was our thirteenth meeting of the year.

The primary focus of the session involved a robust discussion of the economic components of the collective bargaining agreement. Over the past several weeks, SAM has carefully reviewed the more than two dozen economic proposals submitted by the VSO Union. In Monday's sessions we presented an initial consolidated response with counterproposals, including for example competitive wage increases for represented employees, wage differentials, an annual footwear stipend, and recommitments to numerous existing benefits afforded to SAM employees.

Both teams had the opportunity to share their candid views about the economic package and other elements of the contract such as attendance, vacation, and holidays. Lively and productive discussion at the table, like we had in yesterday's session, is an important aspect of this iterative process.

We continue to work together to reach a mutually fair agreement that provides the greatest benefit to all our bargaining unit employees and that positions SAM to be a responsible steward of our limited resources and an equitable employer to our entire team.

We look forward to receiving the VSO Union's feedback on outstanding proposals as we head into the three remaining bargaining sessions this year. The next session is November 13, and we will provide a summary 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

