

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

July 25, 2023

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum and VSO Union bargaining teams met in person Monday, July 24, for our seventeenth collective bargaining session, and ninth meeting this year.

In yesterday's session, the VSO Union passed nine proposals or counter proposals, and communicated to the SAM bargaining team that they have now tentatively passed all of their anticipated economic proposals. We are reviewing these proposals and preparing our responses in preparation for future bargaining sessions. The VSO Union is currently reviewing six proposals from the SAM bargaining team.

We engaged in productive discussion on several open issues including uniform policy, computer access, personal leave, training policies, temporary pay differential and temporary performance of supervisory tasks. We made positive progress and both bargaining teams remain committed to reaching agreement on these open issues.

Additional VSO Union bargaining unit employees observed, and some participated in yesterday's session to get a better sense of the combined effort it takes to reach a strong contract. We welcome this broader VSO Union member participation as we continue to make incremental progress toward our shared goals.

Our next bargaining session is scheduled for August 14, 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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