

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

November 15, 2022

SEATTLE – The Seattle Art Museum bargaining team met yesterday with the SAM VSO Union representatives for the sixth collective bargaining session. Yesterday’s meeting was engaging, constructive and resulted in further meaningful progress.

We are pleased to share that we reached two additional tentative agreements (TAs). They address administrative leave and union workplace communications, bringing the total number of TAs to nine.

Additionally, we engaged in productive negotiations on several other important topics, including:

- Workplace health and safety compliance
- Seniority
- Quarterly labor and management check-ins
- Voluntary changes in job position
- Work jurisdiction and contracting
- Sick time
- Job elimination, furlough and reduction in force

The Union bargaining team presented three proposals and three counterproposals on these topics. The SAM team in turn provided four same-day responses and put forward two additional counter-proposals.

As bargaining progresses, we remain focused on addressing these complex and challenging issues by bargaining in good faith with the SAM VSO Union. We are committed to a strong partnership in these negotiations and are optimistic that we will reach a fair final agreement that supports our employees and the mission of the Museum.

The final two collective bargaining sessions of the year will be held on December 5 and December 19. In these sessions, both parties have expressed commitment to working toward agreement on the above topics as well as discussing progressive discipline, continuity of operations, and management responsibilities and obligations. We will continue to provide summaries after each bargaining session.

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.

SEATTLE
ART
MUSEUM

ASIAN
ART
MUSEUM

OLYMPIC
SCULPTURE
PARK

1300 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

206.625.8900

seattleartmuseum.org

