

# **SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

January 25, 2024

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum and representatives from the VSO Union met on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, for the second collective bargaining session of 2024. It was the twenty-fifth bargaining session overall.

Tuesday's session included an engaging discussion about specific priorities raised in a recent petition from the VSO Union to SAM management. The dedicated time allowed for deeper understanding of the Union's concerns on key issues such as wages, seniority pay, retirement benefits and health insurance. The Union shared some additional economic provisions, and we look forward to receiving their input on other economic proposals so we can consider overall costs in order to respond thoughtfully to the full package.

Starting this month, the VSO Union bargaining team requested that we limit the length of our bargaining sessions. SAM acknowledges and respects the competing demands on the VSO union members' time and have agreed to their request. Recognizing this may prolong overall negotiation efforts, we remain committed to using whatever time available to reach a mutually beneficial agreement at the bargaining table as soon as possible.

To maintain progress between bargaining sessions, today the SAM bargaining team submitted a counterproposal on attendance to the VSO Union by email. This counterproposal reflects the priorities identified by the Union bargaining team and our goal is to discuss the details of this counterproposal at the next session.

Our next bargaining session is scheduled for February 6 and 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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