

# SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

May 9, 2023

SEATTLE – The Seattle Art Museum and VSO Union bargaining teams met virtually on Monday, May 8 for the thirteenth collective bargaining session, after last week’s in-person session was rescheduled due to illness. This session was the fifth meeting of 2023.

While a virtual setting for bargaining has its drawbacks, both parties remain committed to the bargaining process and made the most of this forum. We all felt it was important to keep our productive negotiations moving forward.

Monday’s meeting included substantive discussion on issues that reflect our shared focus on SAM being a great place to work. Both parties approached bargaining with a desire to collaborate and educate one another on our priorities, with a common goal of reaching a mutually beneficial agreement.

We discussed in detail proposals on issues that impact job satisfaction and work-life balance, including:

- Shift pay differential
- Email communication
- Onboarding processes
- Job descriptions and promotions

Our fruitful discussion helped us better understand each other’s perspectives and moved us closer to agreement on these important topics. We thank the VSO Union bargaining team for their continued dedication to this process.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for May 22, 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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MUSEUM

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ART  
MUSEUM

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PARK

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