

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

November 14, 2023

SEATTLE – The Seattle Art Museum bargaining team met in person yesterday with representatives from the VSO Union for our twenty-second collective bargaining session. It was our fourteenth meeting of the year.

Yesterday's session included important discussions on open proposals and counter proposals regarding hybrid posts, temporary coverage for lead or dispatcher duties and temporary coverage for supervisor duties. Both parties had the opportunity to ask questions and present updated responses. Given this productive conversation, we are optimistic about reaching tentative agreements in these and other areas as part of working toward an overall initial contract.

The SAM bargaining team yesterday reiterated our intent to engage in positive and productive bargaining that moves us toward a mutually fair agreement. Through this iterative process, we will continue to approach each bargaining session prepared for constructive discussion to reach a deal.

We appreciate and acknowledge the commitment from the VSO Union bargaining team members to continue to actively participate in this important process. It is through this engaged exchange of proposals, responses and compromise that we will reach a contract that reflects our shared priorities, provides the greatest benefit to bargaining unit employees, and enables SAM to be an equitable employer to our entire team and a responsible steward of our limited resources.

SAM looks forward to receiving the VSO Union's responses to outstanding proposals, including our economic proposals, as we head into the last two bargaining sessions this year. We are also pleased to have the first two sessions of 2024 scheduled. The next session is December 4, 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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