

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

January 10, 2024

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum bargaining team and representatives from the VSO Union met yesterday for the first collective bargaining session of 2024. It was the twenty-fourth bargaining session overall since negotiations began in August 2022.

Both teams were energized and focused during the first session of the year and engaged in productive discussion on several important topics.

We made meaningful progress toward a tentative agreement on the attendance policy proposal, continued to consider the hybrid posts proposal, and reviewed counterproposals from the VSO Union on longevity pay, retirement and health insurance. The SAM bargaining team also passed a counter proposal on dress code policy. Conversation on these policies was fruitful and constructive, and we are encouraged by the positive momentum coming out of yesterday's session.

The SAM bargaining team continues to pass proposals and counter proposals that align with our core values and the Museum's priorities, as reflected in our new strategic plan. An important strategic priority in the new plan is to increase organizational resilience, with a focus on supporting our staff. We remain focused on reaching an agreement with the VSO Union that reflects this commitment.

Our next bargaining session will be on January 23. We also have two additional sessions scheduled for February 6 and 20 and will provide a summary following each 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.

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