

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

February 7, 2024

SEATTLE – The Seattle Art Museum and representatives from the VSO Union met yesterday for the third collective bargaining session of the year. It was the twenty-sixth bargaining session overall since we began negotiations.

Yesterday's session was productive and collaborative. Both teams were focused on increasing our shared understanding around key issues and achieving our shared goal of reaching additional tentative agreements (TA) on the remaining open items. Important progress was made toward this goal, including attainment of TAs on attendance and vacation policies. This brings our total number of TAs to 29.

Additionally, we had robust conversations and made progress on open proposals including meal and rest breaks, temporary performance of supervisory tasks, sick coverage, pay differential, internships and holidays.

Nearly all the outstanding proposals and counterproposals are nearing closure, though we have important work to do yet on economic considerations. SAM continues to welcome questions, concerns and open dialog with the VSO Union bargaining team members so we can better understand their priorities and work together at the bargaining table to reach agreement.

Three more bargaining sessions are scheduled, starting with the next session on February 20. 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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