

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

December 13, 2023

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

A substantial portion of yesterday’s session focused on critically important and personal topics including compensation and wages, benefits, vacation and sick leave, attendance and uniform policies. The lively discussions provided important perspectives to consider going forward and will help inform future counterproposals.

SAM appreciates the VSO Union bargaining team’s continued willingness to raise questions and suggestions about museum operations that have significant impact on their membership. We see and value the unique challenges that frontline staff face and are committed to continuing our open dialog about these concerns.

Each meeting is an important opportunity for SAM to fully understand the Union’s concerns and ideas, and to work together to reach a balanced economic package that demonstrates our commitment to our people while ensuring the museum’s stability and long-term sustainability.

The VSO Union bargaining team has provided much for SAM to consider as we approach the end of the year. We are optimistic we are on pace to reach a mutually beneficial and fair agreement in 2024.

We are pleased to have the first two sessions of 2024 scheduled. The next session is January 9, 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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