

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

February 22, 2024

SEATTLE - The Seattle Art Museum and representatives from the VSO Union met Tuesday for the fourth collective bargaining session of the year. It was the twenty-seventh bargaining session overall.

In an effort to reach an agreement that achieves our shared goals and recognizes the priorities identified by the VSO union, the SAM bargaining team passed a comprehensive economic and benefits counterproposal that offers substantive enhancements to wages.

The updated package and associated explanation presented at the bargaining table Tuesday was responsive to the Union's priorities. The 29 tentative agreements already reached and the remaining open proposals currently under review by the Union demonstrate our commitment to good faith negotiations toward a mutually fair agreement that serves our employees and reflects our core values.

During this latest session, we took the opportunity to reiterate prior due diligence conducted by SAM and important considerations the SAM team reviewed in assessing the feasibility of health insurance for part-time employees and increased retirement benefits. We also reiterated that because these important benefits affect all staff, they have been and will continue to be considered outside of the negotiations with the Union. SAM has previously shared its commitment with museum staff to continue to evaluate staff benefit options and pursue further improvements, and we stand by that commitment.

We continue to engage in robust discussions and respond to the Union's questions while getting a better understanding of their goals regarding longevity pay. We look forward to wrapping up open topics in the coming sessions and reaching a deal that will make this sought after agreement a reality.

The SAM bargaining team is encouraged by the steps taken to move the bargaining process forward. We will continue to work together and seek compromise. Our next bargaining session is scheduled for March 5. 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.

SEATTLE
ART
MUSEUM

ASIAN
ART
MUSEUM

OLYMPIC
SCULPTURE
PARK

1300 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

206.625.8900

seattleartmuseum.org

