

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) UPDATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

August 16, 2023

SEATTLE - On Monday, August 14, the Seattle Art Museum and VSO Union bargaining teams met in person for our eighteenth collective bargaining session, the tenth meeting this year.

The SAM bargaining team shared two proposals with the VSO Union during Monday's session. Both proposals continued iteration on prior proposals. The first regarded the provision of hybrid security guard posts while the second focused on a collaborative process by which Union members can creatively design and vote on the Security team's tops while maintaining the value of a uniformed presence.

The session also included a discussion about updates to the SAM employee handbook and how it applies to VSO Union members. The SAM bargaining team received the Union's preliminary feedback and looks forward to hearing from them on their specific concerns. We are committed to continued good faith negotiations and engaging in further productive conversations.

Having recently received all the Union's expected economic proposals, the SAM team is reviewing these proposals and preparing a response to share with the Union at an upcoming bargaining session. The SAM team is also working diligently on an updated attendance policy proposal, which we know is an important priority for both sides.

Dates for the next two bargaining sessions have been set for September 19 and October 3. We will provide a summary following each of those meetings.

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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