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Tacoma Art Museum Board Votes to Voluntarily Recognize TAM Workers United

TACOMA, WA (June 23, 2023) – The Tacoma Art Museum board of trustees on June 22 approved a proposal to voluntarily recognize TAM Workers United through a private arbitrated election process.

The trustees accepted TAMWU's proposed list of positions eligible to vote and be included in the bargaining unit, with the exception of two security control room operator positions.

"The board's decision is a positive step. We are excited to move forward and work together with employees to continue offering art experiences that enrich the community," said Jeff Williams, TAM board president.

Representatives for both parties have discussed positions that would be eligible for the bargaining unit. Board members believe the two highly trained security control room operators are essential to allow the museum to remain open and protect museum assets in the event of labor unrest.

TAM board members said they continue to support museum staff's rights to unionize.

The next step for the museum and employees in the unionization process is to negotiate the arbitrated voting process, as proposed by TAM Workers United.

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Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM's mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM's collection contains more than 5,300 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast.

Tacoma Art Museum is located on the homelands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We recognize and honor the Puyallup people and Coast Salish communities who have endured so much, so that we can all thrive here today. Learn more about land acknowledgments in TAM's current exhibition, *On Native Land: Landscapes from the Haub Family Collection*.