

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

MYRNA MELGAR

To:

Scott Sampson, Executive Director, California Academy of Sciences

cc:

Leah Van der Mei, Chief Operating Officer and Head of Government Affairs, California Academy of Sciences

Michael Costanzo, General Counsel & Chief of Staff, California Academy of Sciences

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Dear Mr. Sampson,

San Francisco is lucky to be home to so many incredible research and academic institutes, including the world-renowned California Academy of Sciences. Welcoming residents and visitors from near and far, the California Academy of Sciences has the duty to exemplify our San Francisco values. One of the many core values we have in San Francisco is respecting workers' right to organize. Since the early days of the Gold Rush in the Bay Area, San Franciscans have been organizing to advocate for workers' rights, fair wages, and stable working conditions. Modern San Francisco has the honor of being home to countless labor unions, including SEIU, IFPTE, the Building Trades, the Carpenters and many more. San Francisco is a proud union town.

Beyond worker's rights, it is the duty of management to bargain in good faith. Bargaining in good faith means voluntarily recognizing unionized members; it means no funds are used to hire union busting lawyers; and it means abiding by all laws established by the National Labor Relations Board. [Recent reports](#) from Mission Local state that management at the California Academy of Sciences has rejected even the most basic of requests from unionized workers, including a request for recognition through a voluntary card-check and a request for non-interference and neutrality throughout the bargaining process. This refusal to cooperate has delayed the unionizing process and delayed the rights that workers have been working towards for months. As the member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors representing District 7, I am deeply concerned by these accusations of anti-union activity being conducted by a publicly funded institution and major destination in my District.

I urge the management team of the California Academy of Sciences, including Scott Sampson, Leah Van der Mei, and Michael Costanzo, to uphold San Francisco values by bargaining with union workers in good faith and reaching an agreement within a reasonable timeframe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Myrna Melgar".

Myrna Melgar

Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 7