

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 5



City and County of San Francisco

DEAN PRESTON

June 16, 2023

Scott D. Sampson, Executive Director
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
55 Music Concourse Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118

Dear Dr. Sampson:

As a longstanding supporter of workers, I am thrilled that staff at the Academy of Sciences have filed for their union election and are on a pathway to joining the ranks of unionized museum workers across our great city. The Academy of Sciences is a beloved institution for San Francisco residents, and an attractive destination for visitors to our city, as one of the oldest cultural institutions in the country.

San Francisco has a rich labor history, and I am proud to serve in a city that values worker voices and working families. Union members enjoy on average higher wages, better job security, and equal input with their employer when it comes to the terms and conditions of their job through the ability of workers to collectively advocate for a living wage, raise standards, and create a more democratic workplace.

I was disappointed to hear reports that the Academy's senior leadership team would not commit to remaining neutral and allow for a free and fair union election process, including launching an anti-union micro-site. I have not viewed the site personally as it is only available to those within the Academy, but am concerned by reports regarding its content.

My office urges employer neutrality with respect to union organizing and respect for the rights of workers to organize, as required by federal law. I am asking that the Academy refrain from any union busting tactics and allow their staff to elect their union with dignity and without the interference of their management.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Preston".

Dean Preston
Supervisor, District 5

cc: Leah Van der Mei, COO and Head of Government Affairs, California Academy of Sciences
Michael Costanzo, General Counsel & Chief of Staff, California Academy of Sciences