

MINUTES

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2020

The meeting was held on-line by Zoom. *[Note re context: during this time 2020, there have been no Docent tours, or in-person meetings, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.]*

Present: Patty Santiago; Karen Howsam; Christine Holland; Jeff Vitucci; Shirley Waxman; Sara Bangser; Teda Pilcher; Paul Guido; Pattie Firestone; Irene Stone; and Gail Stichler.

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry.

President Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

On Motion, the Minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2020 were approved.

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT – PATTY SANTIAGO

Patty will participate in a roundtable discussion, hosted by the National Docent Symposium Council, to talk about what museums are doing and can do in the future, and how to prepare for reopening and touring. Patty recommends that the Docent Board also think about and address the situation of Docents preparing to tour what will be, in effect, a completely new Museum. To start, she and Ralph Wilson plan to meet in the building, when possible, to work with New Active Docents to get them back in the Museum and up to speed with their in-person tours. Patsy Hicks notes that Museum security and staff are supportive, but only very small groups can visit the building, perhaps starting in January.

VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM

Karen reminds us of the docent tour by Zoom of the Crystal Bridges Museum, scheduled for January 28, 2021. She is contacting the Walters Museum to try to arrange for a similar tour, perhaps in February or March, and at Patsy Hicks' suggestion, will contact Curator Eik Kahng for suggestions.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

There is no report.

TREASURER – JEFF VITUCCI

There were no expenses in the last month. Two Docents have sent in their dues.

The Checking Account balance is \$6,508 and the Savings Account balance is \$10,320.

Note: The Written Treasurer Report is attached to the hard copy of the minutes which are filed in the Secretary Binder in the Docent Office.

MEMBERSHIP – PATTIE FIRESTONE

There are 69 active Docents, 2 of which are on Leave of Absence. There are 46 Sustainers. Only 9 Docents have reported their hours. Pattie will continue with reminders.

ADULT TEAMS – VIKKI DUNCAN AND SARA BANGSER

No new information to report.

STUDENT TEAMS – TEDA PILCHER AND IRENE STONE

There is no report.

PROVISIONAL CHAIR – PAUL GUIDO

Paul and other current and past Provisional Chairs have been discussing how to help Docents with touring. He notes that when the Museum opens, Docents will have not been able to tour for over a year. The Provisional Chairs will offer to meet with any Docent who seeks guidance and feedback. Patsy is willing to assist, and notes the possibility of adding small tutorials to meetings, etc. She also looks forward to discussing the curriculum for the next Provisional Class.

RESEARCH – PATTY SANTIAGO FOR SARAJUM QUAZI

Research papers by Susan Northrup and Pattie Firestone have been sent for posting on the website.

EVALUATIONS – SHIRLEY WAXMAN

There is no new information to report.

WEBMASTER – GAIL STICHLER

Gail thanked Mike Ramey who has continued to spend so much time improving the website. All Board members express gratitude for his work.

Mike is addressing the issue of some differences in how works of art are labeled or classified on the Museum website and on the Docent Website. He will work on changing Docent classifications to be in line with the Museum's classifications. Mike's plans include: he will create new categories for classifications not yet on the Docent website; he will update posts into the new categories; he will delete retired categories; and he will update the search strategies.

See written Webmaster Report attached to the hard copy of these minutes.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – RACHEL HEIDENRY

Rachel provided a report concerning the different Docent Special Projects. The *Community Pen Pals* project is going well, and there continues to be much appreciation for this outreach program. *Travels With a Docent* has been nicely promoted by the Museum. *Storytelling* has concluded, and the next step might be to think about short videos of some of the stories. Lastly, the *Guide By Cell* program is proceeding, with scripts of the talks to be submitted by December 14th.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

Patsy noted the various Special Projects are well-received by the Museum and the public. She encourages Docents to tune in to the Art Matters talks. She notes that our teaching artists were involved in the creation of the Community Mural Project, and encourages Docents to visit.

Upon discussion, the proposed talk by Eik Kahng which was scheduled for January 20th will be moved to the lecture of February 3rd. James Glisson will lecture on Contemporary Art on January 6th.

Checklists for the new galleries will probably be available by early or mid-January.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

The Docent Council Board meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Holland

Docent Council Board Secretary