

## MINUTES

### DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING JANUARY 13, 2021

The meeting was held on-line by Zoom. *[Note re context: during this time 2020-21, 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; Sarajum Quazi, 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 December 9, 2020 were approved.

## BOARD REPORTS

### PRESIDENT – PATTY SANTIAGO

Patty was slated to attend a Zoom discussion with participants in the National Docent Symposium. However, she could not log-in, so was not able to attend. The symposium will be rescheduled for January.

Patty notes her concern that attendance at Docent meetings averages only 40-45 members. She is encouraging attendance especially because the lectures from the Curators are so important. Membership Chairs Patti and Teda offer to assist if there are any technical issues discouraging a Docent from joining a meeting.

A discussion followed with people noting that while the Museum is closed, it is difficult to gather a feeling of relevancy for Docent work. Also, Docents may be accessing the meeting lectures at a later date, on line, if they cannot attend in person. We could send a reminder to Docents to watch the videos of meetings, and send out a long-term calendar with meeting dates.

There is a concern to keep new Active Docents engaged. There is a meeting set for January with them, and perhaps each month thereafter through June, and we hope to get back into the galleries with new Actives touring in the summer.

There was a discussion of concern for Mary Joyce Winder who recently had surgery, and for Barbara Boyd whose husband passed away recently.

The Museum's Annual Preview Meeting is coming up, and in that meeting, Patsy will mention the ongoing contributions of the Docents.

We have previously voted to set aside rules re meeting and tour attendance, and to set aside term limits for President and Vice President, to extend their service another year. Patty suggests that the rule be extended to all Board Members. A MOTION was made to set aside term limits for all Board Members for this year only; the motion carried. All Board Members agreed to stay on in their positions.

### VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM

The tour of Crystal Bridges Museum on Zoom is on calendar for January 28<sup>th</sup>. Karen is planning a similar Zoom tour with the Walters Collection for February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Docent Board approves payment of honoraria at \$200 per tour.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

There is no report.

TREASURER – JEFF VITUCCI

As of the end of December, the savings account balance is \$10,322 and the checking account balance is \$6,598. Dues were received from two Sustainer Docents.

There is a MOTION to increase the budget item for “miscellaneous” by \$600, to account for payment of honoraria for docent tours of other museums.

MEMBERSHIP – PATTIE FIRESTONE

There are 69 active Docents, 2 of which are on Leave of Absence. There are 46 Sustainers. Pattie will remind Docents to send in their hours. There is a MOTION to approve the request of Mike Ramey to return to active status for this year, to recognize his many hours of work on the website. The motion carried.

ADULT TEAMS – VIKKI DUNCAN AND SARA BANGSER

No new information to report.

STUDENT TEAMS – TEDA PILCHER AND IRENE STONE

No new information to report.

PROVISIONAL CHAIR – PAUL GUIDO

Paul met (remotely) with the 5 Provisional Teachers. At this uncertain time, they all are reluctant to make plans for teaching a class. They prefer in-person rather than virtual teaching. They suggest for a new class that we begin recruiting in Fall 2021 and start a class in January 2022. The Education Department noted its willingness to assist.

There have been 4 people contacting us re an interest in Provisional training. It is suggested – and approved by the Board – that they should be invited to attend the virtual Docent lectures and other virtual programs at the Museum.

RESEARCH – SARAJUM QUAZI

Sarajum discussed the details of several research papers received, especially that of Patti Firestone. She encourages all to read the new papers when published on the Docent website. She will check re progress being made on other papers, and will note in La Muse what are the topics of new papers recently published

EVALUATIONS – SHIRLEY WAXMAN

There is no new information to report.

WEBMASTER – GAIL STICHLER

Mike Ramey has put the Docent Directory on the website, as well as the partial Contemporary Art checklist. He will change the type-field to align it with current Museum standards. He is working with Rachel Heidenry on clarifying distinctions with the classifications of objects.

Rachel Heidenry noted that Docents should consult the Museum collections page, as well as the Docent website, when starting research.

It would be helpful to have all information on an object put on to the Docent website file with links embedded to those other sources. Rachel will look in to this possibility.

There was discussion re adding content to the website of our *Guide-By-Cell* and *Travels With a Docent*.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – RACHEL HEIDENRY

There are no new updates re the projects: *Community Postcards* and *Travels With a Docent*.

Rachel hopes to get another *Storytelling* project going, and will discuss possible plans with people who did the initial training. Teda plans for her and Nicola to phone the 13 people who trained for the first *Storytelling* program, to discuss plans. The *Guide By Cell* program submissions are received and all 12 have been sent to the Curators for approval.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

It appears that the Museum will be re-opening in June or July 2021. The Museum is posting new acquisitions on Instagram. The Education Department will share with Docents any new information re what will be installed in the re-opened galleries. Patsy stressed the important activities of the Museum and the value of the visual tours. There was a discussion regarding information about Museum events to the Docents. Because Docents are members of the Museum, they should be receiving all such information.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Holland

Board Secretary

Docent Council Board Secretary

