

**Santa Barbara Museum of Art Docent Council Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom teleconference**

1. **Call to order:** President Patty Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:41 am.

**Board members present:** President: Patty Santiago, Vice President: Karen Howsam, Treasurer: Jeff Vitucci, Membership: Pattie Firestone, Adult Team Chairs: Sara Bangser and Vikki Duncan, Student Team Chairs: Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher, Provisional Chair: Paul Guido, Research: Sarajum Quazi, Evaluation Chair: Shirley Waxman, Webmaster: Gail Stichler.

**Absent:** Secretary: Christine Holland.

**In attendance:** Patsy Hicks, Director of Education and Rachel Heidenry, Manager of Docent & Academic Programs.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Action Item:** Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2021 Docent Board meeting as distributed was made by Paul Guido. Seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

**3. Board Reports**

**President:** Patty Santiago

Report and revised docent survey attached.

- A vote on the slate of officers for the Docent Council Board 2021-2022 was taken at the Docent Council meeting on April 7. The slate of officers was unanimously approved.
  - President: Patty Santiago, Vice President: Karen Howsam, Treasurer: Jeff Vitucci, Membership: Pattie Firestone, Adult Team Chairs: Vikki Duncan, Denise Klassen, and Sara Bangser, Student Team Chairs: Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher, Research: Sarajum Quazi, Evaluation Chair: Shirley Waxman and Paul Guido, Webmaster: Gail Stichler.
- Ralph Wilson and Patty met via Zoom with the New Actives at the end of March. Of the 18 New Actives, 14 attended. They will continue with “Art Talks” scheduled for the last Wednesdays of April, May, and possibly June. The New Actives are extremely excited to begin Highlights tours in the fall.

**Discussion Item:** Docent Survey

The revised Docent Survey was sent to the Board members for review prior to the Board meeting.

There was discussion on the survey content.

- Using the website, Survey Monkey seems to be the most efficient way to send the survey.
- The purpose of the survey is to gather information on docents willing to return to touring in the museum this fall, winter, or in the spring; the type of tours they are interested in giving; and if they would be interested in being stationed in the galleries to answer questions.
- The information collected will be used to create the Preference Sheets for the upcoming docent year and to address concerns that docents may have regarding touring in the museum.

- Questions on student touring are not necessary on the survey because we do not know when student tours will resume and there are two groups who are required to tour students – the classes of '18 (7) and '20 (18) for a total of 25 docents. There is also a group of about 14 other docents who choose to tour students each year, although they are not required to do so. That is a potential total of 39 docents to tour students. There are usually 25 docents on student teams, so that is more than enough docents to fill that need.
- An introduction email will precede the survey which will include the purpose of the survey and that training will be available before docents return to touring.
- The survey will go out at the beginning of May and returned within two weeks. Preference sheets will go out in June and returned by July 1.
- The New Actives are ready and willing to tour Highlights in the fall.

**Discussion Item:** Verbal Description Training

Rachel and Patsy are working with Hannah Goodwin, Manager of Accessibility at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, to provide accessibility and verbal description training for the docents. She launched the Boston Museum's *Access to Art* and *Feeling For Form* program.

There will be four training sessions via Zoom beginning in June, twice a week for two weeks. The trainings are to introduce verbal descriptions and accessibility for the museum's visitors. The training will be recorded for docents unable to attend and for future training.

**Vice President/President elect:** Karen Howsam

No report.

**Secretary:** Shirley Waxman for Christine Holland

**Treasurer:** Jeff Vitucci

Report attached.

- Expenses cleared in March: The Walters Art Museum was paid a \$200 honorarium for the virtual tour.
- March 31 checking account balance: \$6,066.28. Savings account balance: \$10,352.99.
- The Getty Museum and Nasher Sculpture Museum need to be paid for the virtual tours. Last winter the Board approved adding \$600 to the Miscellaneous Expenses category for honorariums which covered the Crystal Bridges, Walters Art Museum, and Getty tours.

**A Motion was made by Pattie Firestone to approve the expenditure of a \$200 Honorarium to the Nasher Sculpture Museum for the virtual tour. Seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously.**

- **Discussion for the May Board meeting:** If docent dues should be optional for 2021-2022 docent year. The museum will not waive the membership fee this coming year for docents as they did this year.

**Membership:** Pattie Firestone

- This June there will be two years of docent service pins that should be awarded. There needs to be a discussion on how and when it would be feasible to have such a ceremony. Several ideas were discussed with no decision due the uncertainty of county guidelines during the pandemic.
- Pattie will gather the names and the number of docents due service pins.

**Adult Teams:** Sara Bangser and Vikki Duncan

No report.

**Student Teams:** Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher

No report

**Provisional Chair:** Paul Guido

No report.

**Research Chair:** Sarajum Quazi

- Gwen Baker has submitted a paper on *Demon Chanting Buddhist Prayers* for review.

**Evaluations Chair:** Shirley Waxman

No Report.

**Webmaster:** Gail Stichler

- Mike Rainey, Gail, and Rachel were all thanked for their excellent job in getting the checklists on the website.

**Department of Education:** Patsy Hicks

- Rachael was thanked for her persistence in getting the checklists from the curators.
- On April 28 there will be a docent walk through of the galleries via Zoom with Susan Bradley, Assistant Director of External Affairs.

**4. New Business**

**Special Projects:** Rachel Heidenry

Report attached.

*Travels with a Docent* is done. *Guide by Cell* is on pause. *Storyteller* is moving forward.

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 am.

The next meeting of the SBMA Docent Council Board will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Waxman for Christine Holland

SBMA Docent Council Board