

MINUTES

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING APRIL 13, 2022

Present at the meeting at the Museum: Patty Santiago; Karen Howsam; Christine Holland; Jeff Vitucci; Teda Pilcher; Irene Stone; Denise Klassen; Shirley Waxman and Gail Stichler.

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry.

President Patty Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting were approved.

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – PATTY SANTIAGO

The new Slate of Officers is complete and approved. The Webmaster will be Gretel Rothrock.

Flowers were sent to David Reichert following the unexpected death of his wife.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - KAREN HOWSAM

The Docent trip to Dallas and Crystal Bridges Museum is set up, and Karen has arranged for many interesting visits.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

Shirley Waxman has kindly agreed to act as Secretary for the May 2022 Board Meeting,

TREASURER'S REPORT – JEFF VITUCCI

Expenses were for flowers to Helene Strobel for \$99.55. Income was from a \$1,150 check from the Museum for funds owed to the Docent Council.

The Memorial Fund in honor of Jerry Jensen is \$6,600.

The checking account balance is \$15,853.49 and the savings account balance is \$10,341.57.

There was a discussion regarding how to utilize the funds. It is noted that there is a Docent Symposium in September 2022 in Kansas City, and perhaps we could send a few additional Docents. In addition, it is discussed, and approved, to set up a summer party for Docents, especially with the goal to welcome New Actives who were not able to mingle and get to know Docents during the Covid shutdowns.

There was a discussion re best use of the Memorial Fund. Following Motion, the Board approved the purchase of a photograph for a sum up to the amount of \$6,600, in memory of Docent Jerry Jensen. Board officers and the Education Department will talk with Curator Charlie Wylie for his suggestions.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - PATTY SANTIAGO FOR PATTIE FIRESTONE

There are 50 active members with 12 Docents on LOA. There are 38 paid Sustainers.

The Board considered the request of Docent Sheila Prendergast for a short leave of absence, but agreed that such was not necessary because it is close to the end of the service year and she has met all requirements for membership this year.

ADULT TOURS – DENISE KLASSEN

Museum attendance remains very high due to the Van Gogh exhibit. The average attendance on Docent tours is 40-50 and more. The new microphone is functioning well. Denise mentioned that it is helpful to remind visitors at the start of the tour that it is important to keep a distance from the art.

There is a new program of having a Docent in the galleries with an "Ask Me" button to answer questions. It is agreed that we can ask Docents on both the Adult and Student tour teams to volunteer for this work.

Highlights tours are on hold until the end of the Van Gogh exhibit. The "Spirituality" tours will start at 12:30 p.m. to best interface with other tours in the museum.

So far there are few Docents signed up for upcoming exhibits, such as the Contemporary Art exhibit "Going Global" and the Summer Highlights tours. Rachel will send an e mail to all Docents seeking participation.

There was a discussion re the possibility of creating a team to tour "Women in Art." There is a small exhibit set to open in June, and the Docent could use that exhibit plus other examples in the Museum. The idea will be discussed at a later date.

STUDENT TOURS – TEDA PILCHER AND IRENE STONE

In addition to regular Student Tours, the Van Gogh Student Tours are going very well with 313 tours in March and 576 scheduled for April.

On March 30th, there was a productive meeting of the Van Gogh Student Tour Team, to evaluate ongoing tour topics.

The Board agrees the suggestion to hold a workshop in the fall re student touring. It is suggested also to incorporate ideas and presentations by Docents who are retired from the education field. Rachel will reserve the Luria Education Center for the date of September 28th.

In the context of looking at Evaluations, Shirley noted that there probably will be student tours in the summer for groups such as summer camps. These would be the responsibility of the New Actives who need the experience in Student Touring (due to Covid, most New Actives have had little experience).

RESEARCH – PATTY SANTIAGO FOR SARAJUM QUAZI

There are no new volunteers for research papers.

EVALUATIONS – SHIRLEY WAXMAN

. All New Actives have been evaluated on Adult Tours. There remain 6 New Actives to evaluate on Student tours. The reinstatement after the Van Gogh exhibit closes will be in Mid- to late-June, and it is agreed that evaluations should wait until that time.

WEBMASTER – GAIL STICHLER

No report.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

Rachel reported that there will be a reception on May 19th for prospective Docents. The Museum has a flyer describing the program and an invitation to the reception. There has been on going interest; so far there are 19 responses to attend and Rachel expects there will be more.

Regarding sources for potential Docents: There was good interest from the Santa Barbara Newcomers Group when they came for a tour, and it is suggested that they be contacted directly to disseminate a copy of our flyer to their members. Also, it is suggested to contact the VISTAS education group to include our flyer in their e mail to members.

The Docent Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for June 3rd. Rachel will send invitations by e mail in mid-May.

The Education Department continues to ask the Curators for checklists for upcoming exhibits.

There are two Docent meetings remaining in the year. For refreshments, the Education Department will provide on May 4 and the Board will provide on May 18. For next year's refreshments, we will go back to the procedure for different tour teams to be responsible. We will ask one of the New Actives to take responsibility for organizing.

Patsy noted that Curator James Glisson will give a lecture to Docents regarding his "Going Global" exhibit.

She thanks Docents for doing well with the very large crowds in the Museum at this time. The two Community Days with free admission are a success.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Holland, Board Secretary