

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023

SBMA Auditorium 11:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Karen Howsam, President; Teda Pilcher, Vice-President; Tommie Rae Barnett for Jeff Vitucci, Treasurer; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; Pattie Firestone, Membership; Susan Lowe, Adult Team Co-Chair; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Irene Stone, Student Team Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Research; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Shirley Waxman, Evaluations Co-Chair; Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster

Absent: Jeff Vitucci, Sarajum Quazi

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

1. **Call to order:** President Karen Howsam called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting was made by Shirley and seconded by Christine. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Board Reports:**
President's Report – Karen Howsam
No report.

Vice-President's Report - Teda Pilcher
 - The Book Club will be meeting April 24 in the FRC to discuss their first book, *John Singer Sargent in His World* by Perry Fisher. Future Book Club meetings are scheduled for July 24 and October 23 at 10:30 in the FRC. Thanks to Patsy Hicks for securing the location to meet. The Book Club membership is currently 23-25 docents with Gail Stichler leading the group.
 - Docents will be traveling to San Francisco April 27-30th where they will visit museums and enjoy San Francisco's culinary delights. 12 docents and 2 spouses have confirmed. Teda is delighted 3 of the Provisionals are joining the trip.
Secretary's Report - Cindy Anderson
 - A card and flowers were sent to Denise Klassen on behalf of the Docent Council on the occasion of her mother's passing.
Treasurer's Report – Tommie Rae Barnett for Jeff Vitucci
 - Over the last two months, the rest of the Symposium and Holiday Party charges were paid. Our Savings account had an increase of \$2.78 to bring our ending balance to \$10,365.67. Our Checking account balance is now \$5240.65.

Membership Report: Pattie Firestone

- There are currently 50 paid Active Members. (3 LOA)
- Pattie received a request from Vicki Duncan for a LOA for this year. Shirley made a motion to approve the request and Susan Lowe seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved.
- There are 48 Sustaining Members paid.
- Hours of Research recorded: 10,259.
- Hours of Public Touring recorded: 683.

Adult Teams: Denise Klassen

- All Spring team touring dates are finalized except for May 28 and May 31 for Nature and Spirituality. Denise and Susan are reaching out to other teams to help fill these tours.
- There was a great response to their request for docents to tour the James Castle exhibit this summer. The team has been picked and Shirley Waxman is the team leader. Once the summer calendars are out, the tour dates for both the James Castle team and the summer Highlights Team will be secured.
- The March stats showed a terrific turn out, as usual, for the Community Speakers program. The “in house” museum tours are typical in number for the month, but there was a reduction of two- zero attendance tours last month to just one this month.
- Denise reported the membership evening event was great fun! The wine and hors d’oeuvres served made it a festive occasion. Six docents in different galleries provided “spotlight” tours to the members who were very receptive and appreciative. At the same time, members were given a glimpse of what being a docent was like in a more relaxed setting, therefore piquing their interest in the docent program. Several docents gave new members their cards, so perhaps there will be some new members who will show an interest in joining the new docent class this fall.
- Here are the statistics for the month of March.

	<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Am/Euro</u>	<u>Tanner</u>	<u>N/S</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>	<u>Special Req.</u>
<u>March</u>						
# Tours Scheduled	7	8	8	4	2	0
# Tours Reported	7	8	7	4	2	0
# Attendees	40	55	53	26	17	0
Zero Attendance	1	0	0	0	0	0
Average Attendance	5.7	6.87	7.57	6.5	8.5	0

Community Speakers

<u>Month</u>	<u>Scheduled Tours</u>	<u>Reported Tours</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Avg Attendees</u>
March	5	5	176	35.2

Student Teams: Nicola Ghersen

- In March we toured 295 students plus teachers and parents, a drop from the previous month because of the many schools on Spring Break for one or two weeks. We should see our numbers increase with April’s full calendar.
- The Provisional Class has shadowed student touring docents in March and will continue to do so through the middle of April. They are encouraged to watch tours by different docents (at both 11 and 12:00 times slots) so they can experience the various touring

styles and types of tours we provide. Beginning in the middle of April and into May, the Provisionals will be presenting two pieces to students with feedback from the Mentoring docent to follow the tour. Irene and Nicola are working with Patty to organize a schedule that will work for both the Provisional and Mentoring docents. This structured observational experience should help begin to prepare the Provisionals for successful student touring in their future years as a docent. Irene and Nicola sincerely thank the student touring docents for welcoming their observers and for mentoring the Provisional docents.

- Irene and Nicola appreciated the discussion at last month's Board meeting about the need to reassess the Artful Making tours. They look forward to working with the Education Department as they develop next year's Artful Making tours.
- They also appreciated the Board's discussion and agreement that two 30-minute tours are equivalent to two 45-minute tours as we discuss the Artful Making tours. Because only half of the class is being toured each half hour, less docents are needed for each hour, which then provides the entire team the opportunity to tour on assigned days. Artful Making tour leaders are also providing opportunities for team members to supervise the changing of tour groups and helping the teaching artist during the changeovers.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

- No report.

Evaluations: Shirley Waxman

- Evaluations of the Provisional's 45-minute tours will be May 23, 24, and 25. The evaluation teams have been compiled and the schedule is in process.
- Evaluations continue for the Joan Tanner Exhibition, Nature and Spirituality, American/European, and the Spring Highlights Tours.
- Only one student tour evaluation is left to be done this year.
- The James Castle Team has been added to the summer evaluation schedule.
- A list of all docents who have been evaluated for the Docent Year 2022-2023 was listed in the report. (See report for further details.)

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- No report
- Gretel continues to work with Mike & Gail and is continuing to enter touring schedules, minutes, and calendars to the website.
- She thanked Mike and Gail once again for her ongoing training.

Provisional Class: Patty Santiago

- By the end of the month, all Provisional docents will have observed a student tour with many of them having observed two tours. They will now move on to observing a tour and presenting at least two works of art to students on a tour.
- Later today, the Provisionals will be presenting their 20-minute Highlights tour with five works of art to their peers. They will be using a modified version of the final evaluation form to give feedback to their classmates.

- In their study of art, they are reading the last two chapters of the book, *Living with Art*, which discusses modern and contemporary art. Ralph Wilson will be giving a presentation on American art to the class next week.
- There have been a few withdrawals from the class over the past few weeks. Margot Diaz-Learned, who is a docent at both the Getty Center and LACMA, decided that taking on a third museum was just too much. Judy Messick and Josephine Carrillo both said that they really enjoyed the class but were struggling with touring. Finally, Judy Dewey's husband is on location in Paris until August, and she has decided to join him. However, she says she is still committed to the program and will contact Patty when she returns in August to schedule her final evaluation. That brings the total number of Provisional Docents to 17.
- Cindy mentioned that the Docent Class of 2020 will be hosting a "Welcome to the Club" gathering at her home for the Provisionals after class on Wednesday, May 10th. The two classes hope to enjoy a time of relaxed camaraderie and celebration of the new docent's hard work as they encourage the Class of 2023 in their final weeks of training and before their 45-minute evaluation.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy mentioned several of the upcoming exhibitions. We look forward to learning more about the new contemporary exhibit, contemporary ceramics, new acquisitions, and Leslie Ridley-Tree's gifts to the museum.
- John Yau will be hosting a talk with Joan Tanner on Sunday, April 30th from 3:30.-4:30 p.m.
- An event entitled "A Painting I Can't Remember" will be held Sunday, April 23 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Carmen Giménez will be reading poetry in the galleries. Docents are encouraged to send Patty an email if you'd like to attend.
- A family guide is being prepared for the James Castle exhibit for students and campers this summer. The Education Department is planning to have an ASL interpreter to interpret docent tours once a month during the James Castle exhibit.

4. Adjournment:

Pattie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Denise seconded it. Karen adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Our next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 in the Ridley-Tree Education Center at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board