

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

Ridley-Tree Education Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Karen Howsam, President; Teda Pilcher, Vice-President; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; Jeff Vitucci, Treasurer; Pattie Firestone, Membership; Susan Lowe, Adult Team Co-Chair; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Irene Stone, Student Team Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair; Sarajum Quazi, Research; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair.

Absent: Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs; Shirley Waxman, Evaluations Co-Chair; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster.

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

1. **Call to order:** President Karen Howsam called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting was made by Teda and seconded by Pattie. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Board Reports:**

President's Report – Karen Howsam

No report, but Karen thanked everyone for coming to the Holiday Party. Special thanks went to Teda for organizing the party and getting the refreshments and to Denise who provided the flowers.

Vice-President's Report - Teda Pilcher

- The Holiday Party was a success. Patty Santiago introduced 11/21 members of the Provisional Class who attended. About 45 additional docents attended the party.
- January 25, 2023 will be our private tour in Carpinteria of the Chrisman California Islands Museum at 11:00. Docents will be driving themselves to this event. Car-pooling is encouraged. If someone needs a ride, or no longer drives, please contact Teda and she will help arrange transportation.

Secretary's Report - Cindy Anderson

- No report.
- An idea was discussed about having a few minutes at our Docent Council Meetings devoted to “Tips and Quips” – a way of sharing positive and inspirational moments docents have experienced on their tours, or that they have observed on other docent tours. Examples of “Tips & Quips” could be interesting transitions, informative or new insights into pieces learned, or thoughtful comments heard by adult or student guests. The idea is to share in person ideas that may inspire us as we continue to develop, improve, and encourage one another. Sharing what the student art programs are doing and the positive

impact they have on the museum would also be a way of spreading good news and keeping us aware of what the students are learning.

- Another idea was also brought up about having student teams meet sometime in January to look at pieces on exhibit and to share how they talk about certain works with students. Again, the idea is to help share information and encourage one another with ideas and insights of what has been successful.

Treasurer’s Report - Jeff Vitucci

- The checking account balance as of November 30, 2022, was \$11,699.28.
- The principal activity in November was a check that cleared for payment for refreshments for an October Council meeting.
- The savings account balance stood at \$10,353.75.

Membership Report: Pattie Firestone

- There are currently 51 paid Active Members. (1 Docent on LOA request)
- There are 48 paid Sustaining Docents.
- Hours of Research recorded: 4491, Hours of Public Touring recorded: 345
- After discussion about a member who requested a LOA for 2022-2023, Teda called for a Motion to grant the LOA provided the docent would be evaluated again before returning to touring. The said docent will not be allowed to take a subsequent LOA and would be encouraged to take on a Sustainer role if unable to tour again. A vote was taken and passed by a majority.
- There was also a discussion about how best to get people to record their research and touring hours. There was the idea of placing a sheet in the Red Book for touring, but Pattie concluded it might be more effective if she personally emails those who haven’t reported their hours to her.

Adult Teams: Susan Lowe

- The winter calendar touring dates went out to team leads and are all set except for the Joan Tanner team, which doesn’t begin touring until February.
- Denise and Susan are working with the museum through Patty to help reduce the amount of last-minute special requests with the hope that the 2 weeks’ notice requirement will be respected.
- Here are the statistics for the month of November. The team has included Special Request Tours and Community Speaker Tours in their data as follows:

	<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Am/Euro</u>	<u>Photo/M.Brown</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>	<u>Special Req.</u>
<u>November</u>					
# Tours Scheduled	18	8	7	2	2
# Tours Reported	18	8	7	2	2
# Attendees	87	36	38	16	29
Zero Attendees	2	1	2	0	0
Average Attendance	4.83	4.5	5.4	8	14.5

Community Speakers

<u>Month</u>	<u>Scheduled Tours</u>	<u>Reported Tours</u>	<u># Attendees</u>
September	1	1	52
October	4	4	130
November	6	6	218
Total Tours	11		
Total Attendees	423		
Average Attendance	38.45		

Student Teams: Irene Stone

- November tours included students from grades three through junior high, high school, and college to explore our wonderful current exhibitions.
- Teams worked enthusiastically as they offered their expertise not only to 190 students on scheduled tours, but also helped with additional tours.
- The 3rd and 4th Tuesday team volunteered en masse to tour on the 5th Tuesday with additional docents volunteering to help with an especially large group, in addition to other Special Request tours.
- The 3rd and 4th Tuesday team was gratified by receiving individual thank you Google Docs from 40 5th grade students from Ellwood School on a recent tour. Their voices were individual and sincere. Art works often listed as favorites were the “doll house”, the Gorman portrait, the Japanese demon, and the Chinese buddhas. Some of the quotes will be included in next month’s La Muse.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

- Sarajum sent Patty Santiago suggestions of works for the provisional class to choose from for their research papers. Many were pieces that are currently on view so they could research something they may potentially include as they develop their final Highlights Tour.

Evaluations: Christine Holland

- Evaluations that have been scheduled have been completed and are going well.
- Looking into having senior docents on each team to do the evaluations for the teams.
- One new active will be mentored to prepare a better tour and will return to touring after the mentoring has been satisfactorily completed.
- The provisional class completed their 3-minute talks. All passed. Christine expressed her excitement in the new people we have joining our ranks.

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- No report

Provisional Class: Patty Santiago – submitted report

- The Provisional Class completed their 3-minute talk evaluations on November 30. There were only a few suggestions from the Evaluation team for some of the class members. A huge thank you to the docents who provided guidance as mentors for the provisional docents.
- The class is in the process of choosing an artwork for their research papers. A note of gratitude to Sarajum for providing an extensive list of works that they could choose from for their papers.

- Charlie Wylie will be speaking to the provisional class Wednesday, December 14 on Photography.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy thanked everyone for the care for and of one another, especially as was evident at our Holiday Party where Sustainers and Actives mingled with new and old members alike.
- After school programs are vibrant and the children are making wonderful connections with the art they are seeing and making.
- Coming Exhibitions and Events:
 - *India, Southeast Asia, and Himalayas*
Ema Wood Gallery
Progress is being made with hopes of opening the gallery January 3.
 - This summer there will be an exhibit of Leslie Ridley-Tree's collection that will add many 19th century French Impressionist paintings to our collection.
 - Joan Tanner checklist will be forthcoming.
 - Some of our lectures will be a bit out of sync as the Women in Antiquity exhibit is scheduled for the summer, but the lecture will occur in March.
 - A book is being written about Katharine Dexter McCormick and Wright Ludington and the role they played in the history of the museum and Santa Barbara. More details later.
 - Tom Davey, of Burning Torches, will be speaking to the Docent Council on January 18 – our first meeting of the new year. We will have 2 sessions in the galleries for this experiential meeting. One from 11-12:30 and the second from 1-2:30. Patty will be sending out an email to the docents on how to sign up.

4. Adjournment:

Karen adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Our next Board Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on January 11, 2023 at the Ridley-Tree Education Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board