

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2023

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

Board Members Present: Karen Howsam, President; Teda Pilcher, Vice-President; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; 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; Shirley Waxman, Evaluations Co-Chair; Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster

Absent: Jeff Vitucci, Pattie Firestone

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 January 11, 2023 meeting was made by Patty and seconded by Irene. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Board Reports:**
President's Report – Karen Howsam
No report, but Karen commented on James Glisson's talk about Joan Tanner's exhibit was very good and that it was an honor to have Joan present for our February Docent Council meeting.

Vice-President's Report - Teda Pilcher
 - The Tom Davery's presentation in the galleries for our January 18th meeting was exhilarating and Teda thanked Patsy for bringing him to the museum.
 - On January 25, 2023 Docent Council members had a private tour in Carpinteria of the Chrisman California Islands Museum. Teda thanked our sustaining docent, David Reichert, for his tour of the collection of Chanel Island artifacts as well as art by Diebenkorn, Carl Oscar Borg, and Cary Stanton.
 - Nominations for the SBMA Docent Board is open now through March 15th. The Council will vote on the slate of candidates at the April Docent Council meeting. Please submit any recommendations to the Nominating Committee (Patty, Karen, and Teda).
 - There was a discussion about amending the by-laws to allow for the continuation of one of the offices beyond the 3-year limit to extend the term to aid in keeping the continuity of the Board moving forward. It was suggested that a small group of Board members (Cindy, Shirley, Teda) meet before the next Board meeting to work on writing the amendment.

Secretary's Report - Cindy Anderson

- Cindy communicated that a sympathy card was sent from the Docent Council to Deby Tygell on the occasion of her mother's passing.

Treasurer's Report - Jeff Vitucci

- No report. No change.

Membership Report: Pattie Firestone

- For the Fiscal Year June 2022-May 2023, there are currently 50 paid Active Members. (1 Docent on LOA)
- There are 48 paid Sustaining Docents.
- Hours of Research recorded: 7008, Hours of Public Touring recorded: 446
- Pattie expressed her pleasure of serving as Membership Chair for a full term. She suggested that the new Membership Chair is familiar with using Excel spreadsheets to maintain existing records. She will be happy to help the new Chair in the transition.

Adult Teams: Susan Lowe

- The touring calendar dates have been completed for Spring Quarter and will be sent out to team leaders shortly.
- The number of docents on the Spring Highlights Tours and American/European Tours has been trimmed and the Summer Highlights touring team has also been diminished due to the large class of Provisional Docents who will be giving the Highlights Tours this summer.
- The stats for January show a reduced number of visitors, but it was difficult to determine the cause: Holiday fatigue, lack of tourists, rainy weather, or perhaps the reduction to only the 1:00 tour?
- After looking at the effect of only 1:00 tours through June, it was suggested that we evaluate the following questions:
 - 1) Are there enough tours scheduled to accommodate docent touring requirements and the effort involved by each of the docents in creating their tours?
 - 2) Are visitors coming in looking for 11:00 tours? Perhaps museum staff can help with this?
 - 3) Should we add back an 11:00 tour on weekends only (Saturday/Sunday) since there are so many students during the week?
- Here are the statistics for the month of January.

	<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Am/Euro</u>	<u>Photo/M.Brown</u>	<u>N/S</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>	<u>Special Req.</u>
<u>January</u>						
# Tours Scheduled	8	8	2	4	2	1
# Tours Reported	9	7	2	3	1	1
# Attendees	35	47	17	19	3	10
Average Attendance	3.9	6.77	8.5	3.2	3	10

Community Speakers

<u>Month</u>	<u>Scheduled Tours</u>	<u>Reported Tours</u>	<u># Attendees</u>	<u>Avg Attendees</u>
January	1	0	0	0

Student Teams: Irene Stone

- In January there were 211 students who toured the museum. Irene expressed her gratefulness in seeing full calendars of tours in the upcoming months. She did note there have been some recent postponements due to a lack of buses caused by the events of the SBIFF (Santa Barbara International Film Festival).
- An email was sent to all student touring docents to remind especially the new docents of their responsibility to be available for their two days of touring each month and their commitment to student touring for their first four years as a docent. It was noted that the team leaders try to evenly distribute touring amongst the team so that the same team members are not carrying the responsibility each month. If a docent is unable to fulfill their touring assignment, it is their responsibility to find a replacement.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

- Patty Santiago has forwarded several of Provisional reports already completed to Mike and Gretel to upload to the Docent Website. It was also suggested that a list of new papers be submitted to La Muse so that the entire Council will be aware of the new research available.

Evaluations: Shirley Waxman

- Shirley reported that all evaluations are going well.
- A few evaluations were missed during the Photography and Marshall Brown exhibits.
- Nature and Spirituality evaluations are being scheduled
- The 8-minute evaluations for the Provisional class were discussed
- Student touring evaluations are going well.

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- No report
- Gretel continues to work with Mike & Gail and is entering the touring schedules, minutes, and calendars to the website.

Provisional Class: Patty Santiago – submitted report

- The Provisional Class completed their first drafts of their research papers.
- The 8-minute evaluations will take place February 15.
- The focus of the upcoming training will be on student touring. Patty will coordinate with Irene and Nicola for the Provisionals to shadow touring docents in March and April.
- The study of 1Asian art will begin this month as well.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy recognized how central the contributions of the Docent Council are for the museum. She reminded us how valued we are as we interact with both students and adults in the community on behalf of the museum.
- Larry's retirement will be an adjustment, but the current state of the museum is strong, and the excellence Larry upheld during his years as Director will continue.
- Larry's final exhibition will be the James Castle exhibit this summer.
- James will be doing a walk-through of the Joan Tanner exhibit.

- Kudos to Loree Gold who gave a Zoom presentation to the San Francisco Museum of Art -we're hoping to do more exchanging of presentations with other museums in the future

4. **Adjournment:**

Karen adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Our next Board Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 8, 2023 at the Ridley-Tree Education Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board