

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2022

Double Board Meeting

Luria Activity Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Patty Santiago, President; Karen Howsam, Vice-President/President Elect; Teda Pilcher, Student Team Co-Chair/Vice-President Elect; Christine Holland, Secretary/Evaluations Co-Chair Elect; Cindy Anderson, Secretary Elect; Jeff Vitucci, Treasurer; Pattie Firestone, Membership; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Susan Lowe Adult Team Co-Chair Elect; Irene Stone, Student Team Co-Chair; Sarajum Quazi, Research; Gail Stichler, Webmaster; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster Elect.

Absent: Laura DePaoli, Adult Team Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair Elect; Shirley Waxman, Evaluations Co-Chair; Paul Guido, Evaluations Co-Chair.

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

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

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the May 11, 2022 meeting was made by Teda and seconded by Gail. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Board Reports:**

President's Report - Patty Santiago

- Patty highlighted the many accomplishments and events that occurred during the year. Among them were:
 - the reopening of the newly renovated museum on Sunday, August 15, 2021. Touring of the museum began on September 14th and student touring resumed in October.
 - The Docent Service Recognition Ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 outdoors at the Ridley-Tree Center. Two years of service recognition awardees, those from 2020 and 2021 were recognized, as was the provisional class of 2020.
 - The New Active Docents were evaluated August 31st, and September 2, 7, 9, and 14th.
 - The Holiday Party was held in December at Josie Martin's home.
 - Touring in the museum was paused for two weeks due to a resurgence of COVID infections.
 - A revised Dress Code was approved by the Board and moved from the Bylaws to the Standing Rules.
 - Board recruitment began in February.
 - The Van Gogh exhibition opened on February 25th with crowds of visitors. It was decided to pause Highlights tours until after Van Gogh concluded. It was also decided to have tours begin at 1:15 p.m. in Preston Morton due to the huge numbers of people.

- Docent Council meetings returned to in person in the auditorium on March 2nd.
- Board recruitment began in February and the slate of officers was published in the April 1st edition of La Muse. A vote was taken at the April 6th Council Meeting and the positions were approved.
- A recruitment event for new docents was held on May 19th and had 25 attendees.
- The Docent Service Recognition Ceremony was held on June 3rd at Ridley-Tree Education Center.
- The Council received notice that former docent, Jerry Jensen, had died. His family asked that donations be made to the Docent Council in his memory. Discussion began on the best use of the Jerry Jensen Memorial funds. The Board was asked to vote on three photos out of six by Santi Visali to be purchased with the Jerry Jensen Memorial Fund money. Jerry's wife Nancy was at the June Docent Recognition Ceremony where the three photos were presented. They are Leonardo Bernstein conducting "Cavalleria Rusticana" at the Metropolitan Opera, Federico Fellini directing "Casanova" in Rome #4, and Ella Fitzgerald singing in New York #1.
- The webinar, "The Evolving Docent", was held by the National Docent Symposium and a synopsis of its main points was presented to the Board.
- At the end of April, Karen Howsam organized a very successful trip for docents who traveled to Dallas, Texas to see the Nasher Sculpture Garden, the Crow Museum of Asian Art, and the Meadows Museum. Their trip continued to Bentonville, Arkansas to see the Crystal Bridges Museum.
- Christine Holland will be joining Shirley Waxman to Co-Chair the Evaluations team.
- New Active Docents will tour the Summer Camp students this summer.
- Of the five New Active Docents on LOA, one has resigned, two have not responded to correspondence, and two will be doing an evaluation tour at the end of June/beginning of July.
- Karen Howsam presented Patty with a gift from the Board, thanking her for her outstanding service to the Council as President.

Vice-President's Report - Karen Howsam/Teda Pilcher (Vice-President Elect)

No report

Secretary's Report - Christine Holland/ Cindy Anderson (Secretary Elect)

No report

Treasurer's Report - Jeff Vitucci

- **Action Item:** A motion by Irene and seconded by Pattie was made to approve the Budget for 2022-2023. The Budget was unanimously approved.
- See written report for more details.
- The checking account balance as of May 31 was \$15,641.07.
- The savings account balance stood at \$10,344.12.
- Since there are some prior year's funds that were held in reserve, this year's Budget ended up being balanced.
- The Budget for 2022-2023 includes a few increases in line items due to increased costs and not having a Provisional Class last year. Those line items are: National

Docent Symposium, Holiday Party, Provisional Trainers Reimbursement Stipend, and Provisional Class Expenses.

- There was a brief discussion about increasing the Docent dues in the future. For now, they will remain at \$35.

Membership Report: Pattie Firestone

- There are currently 50 Active Members with 12 Docents on LOA. There are 38 paid Sustaining Docents.
- As of June 7, the number of Research Hours reported is 12,927, and the number of Public Tours reported in 624.

Adult Teams: Denise Klassen/Susan Lowe Co-Chair Elect

- With the full re-opening of the museum after a five-year closure for construction, it was determined there was a need for touring times to be increased. In addition to the 1:00 p.m. daily tour, one additional tour was added at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- There was an excellent turn-out for tours this year. There were only 5 tours for the year with 0 attendees. (Three Highlights tours and Two Meet Me at the Museum tours.) All tours were paused on January 8th and resumed February 8th because of the upsurge in COVID. Here is the recap of the numbers:

Meet Me at the Museum - September 14 - December 31, 2021
22 Tours, 188 People

Facing Forward - September 14 - December 31, 2021
45 Tours, 268 People

Highlights - September 14 - June 7, 2022
85 Tours, 514 People

Ten Talks - September 30 - June 7, 2022
12 Talks, 166 People

Nature & Spirituality - January 6 - June 5, 2022
19 Tours, 166 People

Van Gogh - February 27 - May 22, 2022
151 Tours, 5600 People

Totals: 334 Tours, 6828 People

- Denise noted that since many Docents who have “specialized” in Asian art have now become Sustainers, and are no longer touring, there is a need to find and educate new Docents to tour these galleries. Denise proposed the idea of asking Sustainer Docents with deep knowledge and interest in Asian art if they would be willing to “mentor”

Docents who want to begin to tour in this area. Upon discussion, there was general approval of the idea, and Denise will follow up as appropriate.

Student Teams: Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher/Nicola Ghersen Student Teams Elect

- Irene thanked Patsy Hicks for her VTS presentation in Ludington Court on October 5 to further demonstrate and refresh student touring techniques to interested docents. She also extended her appreciation to Rachel for her comprehensive organization and communication throughout the year and to Elena for keeping all tours on track.
- The interest in student tours increased this year, especially in the Jr & Sr High School and College requests. Here is a recap of the number of students toured:

Regular Student Tours: October - 170 November - 125 December - 123
February - 24 March, April, May - 520
Total: 962

Van Gogh Student Tours:

Held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00-10:45 and 10:30-11:15
Many schools brought more than 40 students.
A total of 1400 students toured the exhibit

- Next year's plans include having the following touring teams:
Two teams for all grade levels: A) 1st & 2nd Tuesdays B) 3rd & 4th Tuesdays
Two teams for Artful Making for grades 4-8
C) 1st & 2nd Thursdays D) 3rd & 4th Thursdays
One Special Request Team for secondary students on Fridays
- The Tuesday teams next year may be requested by elementary teachers to include storytelling in their tours.
- In preparation for our return to traditional touring next fall, a workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 14 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Luria Activities Center with the focus being on VTS as well as other thinking routines and storytelling techniques.
- Irene commended her team for their collegiality and willingness to take on the challenges of the year, and doing so with flexibility, camaraderie, and enthusiasm.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

- Sarajum reported that there are several new papers that need to be written for works in the Preston Morton Gallery, the Greco-Roman Collection, some works in the Going Global exhibit, and several in the Indonesian Collection that will soon be on view. A few docents have volunteered to research some of these pieces.
- Sarajum noted there is also no research on several Asian pieces such as "Lady with Bird", "Garuda, the Man-Bird as Guardian King, and "Tang Dynasty Emperor Minghuang and his Consort Yang Guifei", to name a few.
- The paper written for the "Hollow Brick with Tigers and Bi Disk" has some discrepancies about the dating of the piece. It was determined that the research paper was done before the piece had been sent out to be dated, which would account for the confusion. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Sarajum would move the

current research paper to the Comment section and write a new paper with the corrected dating.

Evaluations: Shirley Waxman and Paul Guido/Christine Holland Elect

- See written report for further details.
- The team evaluated 52 Docent tours in 2021-2022
- All New Active Docents were evaluated in August and September and began touring in September. There are two New Actives that were on LOA due to COVID precautions and will be evaluated this July. Two New Actives failed their evaluations and decided not to continue in the program.
- All Special Exhibitions Teams were evaluated.
- Re-evaluation of Senior Docents touring students was suspended this year unless an issue was identified, and there were none.
- Evaluations from January 1-March 31 were suspended due to the pandemic and the Van Gogh exhibition. Evaluations were deferred April 1-June 30 because of the Van Gogh exhibition and later due to the reinstallation of the galleries.
- The goal was to have all New Active Docent student tour evaluations done by the end of this docent year, but several had to be scheduled for this summer. (See written report)

Webmaster: Gail Stichler/Gretel Rothrock Webmaster Elect

- Gail's end-of-year Board report included a "job description" for the Webmaster position. The responsibilities of the Webmaster are listed in the By-Laws and in the Standing Rules. She noted that when the By-Laws were revised in 2018, there were parts of the By-Laws that were removed for individual Board positions and then put into the Standing Rules. Those items include the responsibilities of Board members to notify the Webmaster of actions within the scope of their ongoing work. Gail read those individual responsibilities to the Board members that are now listed in the Standing Rules. A written description is in the report attached.
- A summary of the web activities for the 2021-2022 was given. Special thanks were given to Mike Ramey for all the wonderful and consistent support he provides the Docent Council. Many thanks to Mike for all the resources he included on the website to help Docents prepare for the Van Gogh exhibit. The extensive information he provided was used with much appreciation by all Docents as they prepared for their tours.
- Mike had an opportunity to speak with our service host **Go Daddy** at the beginning of June, at which time **Go Daddy** agreed to add an SSL Certificate without any additional on-going cost to us. The SSL increases the security of our website and allows users to upgrade to a new Wi-Fi without a setup reconfiguration required.
- There was some discussion about having the Docents have another demonstration or a tutorial session after a Docent meeting in the fall to revisit the updated website, so everyone is aware of the incredible resources that are located there and where to find them. Of note: all up-to-date touring schedules can be found on the website.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry

- Rachel reported that Preference Sheets were coming in and that they are due to the Museum by July 1.
- It looks like there may be some additional Sustainers next year.
- The checklist for this fall's Southeast Asian art installation is still needed. The curators' selections for the fall exhibitions will also be forthcoming.
- Patsy expressed how much the Van Gogh exhibit reminded us of how important the Museum is to the community. After a long renovation, it was exciting to see the gradual re-engagement of the Museum with the public.
- As we tour, Patsy asked us to encourage any guests that we notice are especially interested in art, or who ask interesting questions, if they might consider being a docent. Our engagement with the public is often the best tool for recruiting new members.
- Patsy also thanked Rachel for her outstanding communication throughout the year.

4. **Adjournment:**

Action Item: A motion to adjourn was made by Karen and Patty adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Anderson
Secretary Elect, SBMA Docent Council Board