

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Docent Council Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom teleconference

1. **Call to order:** President Patty Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Board members present: President, Patty Santiago, Vice President: Karen Howsam, Treasurer: Jeff Vitucci, Membership: Pattie Firestone, Adult Team Chairs: Sara Bangser and Vikki Duncan, Student Team Chairs: Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher, Provisional Chair: Paul Guido, Research: Sarajum Quazi, Evaluation Chair: Shirley Waxman, Webmaster: Gail Stichler.

Absent: Secretary: Christine Holland.

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Action Item: Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2021 Docent Board meeting as distributed was made by Sara Bangser. Seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

3. **Board Reports:**

President: Patty Santiago

Report attached.

- Docents were notified via La Muse that the Board voted to waive the term limits for Board positions for the 2020-2021 year. Nominations for Board positions for 2021-2022 need to be received by March 15th. The nominated slate of Board positions will be published in the April La Muse and a vote will be taken at the Docent Council meeting in April.
- Patty and Ralph Wilson met with the New Actives via zoom at the end of February. Of the 18 new Actives, 14 attended. They will continue with "Art Talks" scheduled for the last Wednesdays of March, April, and May.
- Patty, Karen, Patsy, and Rachel met with the Adult Team leaders to discuss the 2021-2022 Preference Sheets. They will be distributed to docents in June and returned by July 1st. They discussed sending out a short survey in May to determine how many docents anticipate returning to touring either adults or students and when they anticipate doing so.
- They also met with the Provisional and Evaluations Chairs and the decision was made to not have a Provisional class next year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and the newly renovated museum. The Provisional team will work on revising the curriculum and restructuring the format with Erika Budig leading those effort.

Vice President/President elect: Karen Howsam

- There are two virtual tours scheduled: The Getty Museum at 10 am on Wednesday, March 24 and the Nasher Sculpture Museum on Thursday, April 8 at 10 am.

Secretary: Shirley Waxman for Christine Holland

Treasurer: Jeff Vitucci

Report attached.

Expenses cleared in February: Flowers sent to Barbara Boyd and Mary Winder and an Honorarium to Crystal Bridges for their virtual tour.

February checking account balance: \$6,266.00. Savings account balance: \$10,324.80.

Membership: Pattie Firestone

- There are 70 Active docents and 44 Sustaining docents.
- Research hours logged to date: 1738 hours.
- Mike Ramey was moved from Sustainer to Active status.
- Mary Eckhart was added as a Sustaining member.

Adult Teams: Sara Bangser and Vikki Duncan

Survey attached.

Discussion Item: *Update on meeting with Patsy and Rachel regarding the preference sheets and survey.*

- A Sub Committee consisting of the Adult and Student Team Chairs met with Patsy and Rachael to discuss ideas for touring in the upcoming year. It was decided that the first step would be to see how many docents are ready to return to touring in September and what are their touring expectations and preferences. A short survey will be sent out to active and sustaining docents in April.

Student Teams: Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher

Discussion Item: *Clarify student touring requirement of four years for new docents, does this year with no tours count?*

- There was a discussion on the four-year requirement to lead student tours. The consensus was that due to the pandemic there were no touring opportunities and docents should not be penalized when they were willing to tour. This effects two classes: 2016, 2018. The class of 2020 is committed to touring four years.
- The concern is not having enough docents to tour students. It was brought up that many docents continue to tour student after their four-year requirement. The docent survey will help with identifying docents willing to tour students.
- There is still uncertainty as to when students would be returning to the museum.
- This is a good opportunity to exam, reevaluate, and revamp the student touring curriculum. The Education Dept will be sending out a survey to teachers to inquire on what are they looking for in a museum experience for their students.

Provisional Chair: Paul Guido

Discussion Item: *Update on meeting with Patsy and Rachel, no provisional class next year, revise and restructure provisional class curriculum, opportunities for professional development for docents in the galleries.*

- There will not be a Provisional class this year.
- The curriculum will be updated and reevaluated during the year by Erika Budig and Provisional Team with input from Patty, Patsy, and Rachael.

- Professional development for current docents as they return to the museum was discussed. There is a team willing to help docents with refreshing their touring skills lead by the Evaluation Team of Shirley Waxman and Paul Guido.
- It was suggested to ask Joanne Singer to help with inclusion training for the docents since it is her area of expertise.

Research Chair: Sarajum Quazi

No report.

Evaluations Chair: Shirley Waxman

No Report.

Webmaster: Gail Stichler

- The scripts of the docent's Guide by Cell presentations are on the website under the artwork that is being presented.
- Gail thanked Rachael for getting the checklists onto the website.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry

Special Projects: Rachel Heidenry

Report attached.

- **Travels with a Docent:** Gwen Baker has submitted her recording of Travels with a Docent and it should be going live on the SBMA Travel page the week of March 15th. No other docents who initially expressed interest have participated. The project will likely end after this month.
- **Guide by Cell:** Docents are still working on them.
- **Storytelling:** Storytelling will have a dedicated web page on museum's website. It is scheduled to go live in April. The docent talks will also be useful for other museum events.
- **Pen Pals:** Note writing continues with a group in Buellton. This program will conclude at the end of May.

New Business: Rachel Heidenry

- Due to the pandemic the timeline for events returning to the museum is unknown at this time and will be determined by following county guidelines.
- The Education Department is working on health and safety standards for returning to the museum and creating a program for service dogs and wheelchair access.
- Maps of new galleries are being prepared and will be ready by this summer.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

The next meeting of the SBMA Docent Council Board will be Wednesday, April 14 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Waxman for Christine Holland
SBMA Docent Council Board