

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

October 12, 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; Susan Lowe, Adult Team Co-Chair; Irene Stone, Student Team Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair; Sarajum Quazi, Research; Shirley Waxman, Evaluations Co-Chair; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster.

Absent: Pattie Firestone, Membership; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs

In attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education; Josie Martin, Docent Council member.

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 September 14, 2022, meeting was made by Jeff and seconded by Susan. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Board Reports:**

President's Report – Karen Howsam

No report

Vice-President's Report - Teda Pilcher

- Teda reported on the October 26th Docent trip to USC Pacific Asian Museum in Pasadena. 16 docents were currently signed up, but none had paid. Teda estimated the cost of the trip would be \$80.
- There was a discussion about the need for docents to submit payment to save a spot for the trip. With rising bus costs, it was felt a firm commitment was necessary to have enough people to warrant a bus and to know how many people to truly count on. If there weren't enough people going to be able to pay for the bus, the idea of renting an Executive Van was offered.
- (Four days after the Docent Council Board Meeting, Teda sent out an email on October 16 to the Docent Council saying that she was going to have to cancel the trip due to “various components that kept changing and which required conditions that detracted from the trip”.)
- Teda still needs a committee to help her with the Holiday Party. She put in an announcement in La Muse, but still hasn't received any volunteers. The party will be on December 12 from 4-7:00 p.m. at Josie and Ed Martin's home.
- The refreshments for the Docent Council meetings are being organized by Merle Guadagnini and Pattie Firestone. Since we now need to buy our own coffee, Jeff

suggested that we use our Miscellaneous Fund to cover the cost of the 2-3 carafes we will need. We are estimating a cost of \$50-60 each meeting. Whoever buys the coffee should fill out a Request for Payment Form and submit the form, with the receipt, to Jeff for reimbursement.

- A better location for our refreshments was also discussed. People felt there was too much crowding and noise in the small space near the FRC. After some discussion, we wanted to return to the space outside the Auditorium. Patsy will check into submitting an event request form to return to that area.

Secretary’s Report - Cindy Anderson

- Cindy checked with the Board about the posting of reports that included sensitive information, i.e., evaluations. It was confirmed that that kind of information would remain confidential and not included in the minutes or uploaded on the Docent Website.

Treasurer’s Report - Jeff Vitucci

- The checking account balance as of September 30, 2022, was \$11,826.79.
- Principle activities in September included payment for Gifts/Flowers for Ralph Wilson and dues received of \$120.00.
- The savings account balance stood at \$10,349.39.

Membership Report: Pattie Firestone (report read in her absence)

- There are currently 51 paid Active Members. (None on LOA)
- There are 40 paid Sustaining Docents for a total of 91 Docent Council Members.
- Pattie reminded us to email her our hours. Only three have submitted their hours so far.

Adult Teams: Susan Lowe

- During September most teams completed and turned in their touring dates through December.
- There seems to be some issues with the newer docents on the Highlights Team regarding their commitment to tour and their responsibility to find replacements when they can’t. They are hopeful this will be ironed out soon.
- The question has been asked as to whether 2 tours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday make sense, especially with fewer Docents available in the Docent pool. They will provide statistics after the month of October for our evaluation.
- Here are the statistics for the month of September:

	<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Going Global</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>
<u>September</u>			
# Tours Reported/Scheduled	18/15	11/11	2/2
# Attendees	125	63	14
Zero Attendees	0	1	0
Average Attendance	6.9	5.7	7

Student Teams: Irene Stone and Nicola Ghersen

- The September 14 Student Tour Meeting was well attended and provided time for the individual teams to meet, plan, and bond for the beginning of student tours in October.
- After the first week of student touring, reports are that teams have adapted well to the new process of meeting school groups at the State Street entrance. Molly helped with the bin on the first Tuesday tours. Patsy mentioned we may need to buy our own bin since the library construction has been delayed beyond December.
- Thanks again to Mike Ramey for the wealth of information he has provided us on the Docent website.
- Immediate goals are to be attuned to any concerns of student touring teams about logistics and about providing effective tours for our young visitors.
- It was mentioned there are many positive comments coming in about the student tours.

Provisional Class: Cindy Anderson (read report in Patty's absence)

- There are currently 21 Provisional Class members who are well-educated, well-traveled, and articulate. There are seven men and 13 women with a wide representation of various occupations. Three or four have art history degrees, one was a graphic artist, one was a former docent here who is now returning, another was a docent at the Getty Villa, while another was associated with LACMA. Several are bilingual in various languages, and one is trilingual. Class discussions have been lively and at an exceptionally high level.
- Patty needs help in two areas:
 - 1) Mentors – We need more mentors for this large group. Patty would like to restructure the mentor expectations and ask that mentors commit to meeting with their mentee on three Wednesday afternoons that coincide with Docent Council Meetings. The dates are **November 2** – to practice the three-minute talk, **January 18** – to practice the 8-minute talk, and **May 3** – to practice the 45-minute tour.
- Student Tour Observations – Patty would like to ask active docents to support the provisional docents by agreeing to let them shadow them during student tours. There are 21 Provisionals and 26 docents who are touring students. Everyone's help and cooperation is needed. Irene suggested we set up a way to foster the communication between the Provisional and Active Docents so people are aware of when the shadowing may occur. It was voiced that Docents would appreciate not having a Provisional shadow during their evaluation.
- Patty thanked Cindy Anderson and Barbara Ross for being an enormous help and support as they assist her with the class.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

- Sarajum has sent out four checklists to the membership on *Stillness, For Opacity, The Architecture of Collage: Marshall Brown*, and works in the Preston Morton Gallery. Loree Gold has shown interest in doing some research, and Josie Martin may write a paper on Lind-Ramos' *Figura Emissaria* after her successful Ten Talk about the piece.
- Ruben Rivera de la Garza, one of our Provisionals, is interested in writing a paper on *Cementerio (Cemetery), Juchitan, Oaxaca 1988* by Graciela Iturbide.

- Pattie Firestone has done two research papers that will be sent to Gretel to upload to the website. The papers are *Ceremony* by Isamu NOGUCHI and *New Year III, 1971* by Yaacov Agam.
- It was suggested Sarajum let the membership know when new papers come out by putting a notice in La Muse.

Evaluations: Shirley Waxman and Christine Holland

- Evaluators have been assigned docents to evaluate. There was a meeting on September 25 to go over the process and procedures for evaluations and to answer any questions.
- Evaluations for the Fall include the following teams: Photography + Form (October 2-January 14, 2023), European/American (October-December, 2022), Highlights (September – December, 2022), and Student Tours.
- Student Tour evaluations have begun and may take a little longer depending on the calendar of student tours.

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- Gretel and Mike Ramey have been working together on posting new information on the Docent Website. Gretel hopes to be able to do the posting herself with a few more sessions. In the meantime, please submit any information or requests regarding the website to both Gretel and Mike.
- Mike suggested that cross-referencing Docent papers on file in Patty’s office with those listed on the Docent Website might reveal some papers worth uploading. Gretel offered to take up this task. There was some discussion that Loree Gold and Patty Santiago have looked at them, so this might not be necessary.
- There was some discussion about Docents being somewhat intimidated by doing research. The Provisional class will be adding another 21 research papers to our website in January. It was suggested that we might invigorate research by the Council in some way like having a “Spring into Research” slogan in the spring. Changing the name from Research Paper to Resource Paper may also be something to consider as we seek to have more members contributing their knowledge in this way.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy reported there has been a lot of positive feedback from both Student Touring and touring in general this fall.
- Patsy mentioned that Writing and Sketching in the Galleries should not conflict with Ten Talks and Pop-Up Opera on First and Third Thursdays.
- Patsy is busy with community meetings and events to re-establish and to continue the relationship between the public and the museum, especially after COVID and the renovation. Some events include – October 8 - Council on Drug Abuse, October 12 - Teacher Workshop (85 teachers have signed up), hosting Superintendents in SB Unified and the County to rebuild relationships, SB City College Workshop for teachers
- A question was asked about the Directory for this year. Patty Santiago is working on getting it printed.

- Exhibitions:
 - ***Time of Gifts - Photographs Given to the Collection, 2016-2022*** is beautiful and will be up through January 14, 2023. Charlie Wylie, curator, will be giving a walkthrough of the exhibit with interested docents on Monday, October 17 at 1:00.
 - ***India, Southeast Asia, and Himalayas***
Ema Wood Gallery
(delayed- TBA)
 - ***For Opacity***
Davidson and Colefax Galleries
September 25, 2022 – January 15, 2023
 - ***The Architecture of Collage***
Marshall Brown
Contemporary Gallery & Ala Story New Media Gallery
September 25, 2022 – January 15, 2023
- Other events:
 - October 20 – I’m goin’ to mess with you”:TC Boyle 5:30 p.m.
 - October 23 – Day of the Dead 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
 - November 17 – Mecca: Susan Straight – 5:30 p.m.

4. **Adjournment:**

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

Our next Board Meeting will be held November 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board