

Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: December 9, 2015

Present: Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Vikki Duncan, Denise Klassen, Michi Ho, Christine Holland, Teda Pilcher, Karen Brill, Ralph Wilson, Paul Guido, Barbara Boyd, Loree Gold, Patsy Hicks, Rachael Kriepps,

Call To Order: Joan called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Board Reports

President, Joan Dewhirst

Minutes of Board Meeting of November 10, 2015 were approved as amended.

The order of reports was changed to accommodate meeting schedules; Patsy Hicks spoke first, followed by Ralph Wilson.

Department of Education, Patsy Hicks and Rachael Kriepps

Patsy thanked the docents for the lovely Holiday Party, and the way it connected old traditions with the new [Provisional] class, noting that new class looks good.

Patsy gave an update on the 75th Anniversary exhibition, which is being called a special installation and will have rotations of art work. The installation will include some end-of-year gifts, notably from the Jungmeyer bequest with an Ynez Johnston donation. Some American art will be back on view. The first iteration of photography in the print room after Piranesi [closes January 3rd] will be a special tribute to Karen Sinsheimer and her strong curatorial vision.

The Special Installation will be open by January 29th in time for the winter Teacher Open House. The format of that event will be like the fall event, and there will be new lesson plans in areas of writing, art, and science. The focus will be on VTS.

Phillip Yenawine [Visual Thinking Institute Co-Founder] will speak to docents on February 3rd. Patsy encourages Provisionals and Student Touring docents to be there to hear the message.

Alejandro Cartagena's installation in the FRC will come down on February 4th. Julie Joyce and Patsy are working with artist Charles Long on a project for the FRC to open in mid-February. A talk and activities for visitors will depend on Long's availability.

On February 17th, writer Jonathan Letham will speak on public art and the body.

At the end of December to early January, Cecilia Garcia, a textile artist from the Savannah College of Art and Design, will demonstrate weaving on Chase Free Thursday, and the weekend of January 2nd and 3rd. She will leave behind a simple weaving project that we can do with visitors, and in juxtaposition to the artworks, give another way to get them thinking about the art as they walk through the galleries.

Rachael Kriepps appeared on KEYT on 12/8/15 to speak about the Museum's Holiday Gift Workshop and did a terrific job. [See segment at link below. v.w.d.]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_sE0dJnDzE

A VTS-focused workshop is being planned to follow Phillip Yenawine's visit to benefit us in touring and in how to create tours with VTS.

In January, Patsy will be leading workshops for future teachers for two days at Antioch University, and one day at UCSB.

Provisional Co-Chair, Ralph Wilson [Mary Ellen Hoffman was conducting class]

The Provisionals are giving their Three-Minute Talks today, six on objects in Ridley-Tree, and one on the Siqueiros Mural. The Provisionals reported that they enjoyed the Holiday Party, which is an ideal time to get to know them on a social basis. The trainers hope to see all the Provisionals through graduation.

President, Joan Dewhirst

Joan welcomed the Board to the final meeting of calendar 2015, and noted the Holiday Party as the docent social highlight of the year. She shared lines from a thank-you from Shirley Waxman, saying it was one of the best docent parties. The presenters giving the awards for 5, 25, and 30 years of service (Vikki Duncan, Shirley Waxman, and Nyna Mahan) did a lovely job.

Reporting on a Capital Campaign meeting, Joan said that Ron Default felt the response to the first message to docents in support of a docent gift to Capital Campaign was positive. Information about a docent gift will be sent to all Sustainers, inviting them to join the Active Docents in supporting the Campaign, and noting the tax benefits of contributions before December 31st. Rachael has the needed forms and will add a comment saying that the donation is toward a docent gift. Specific Inquiries may be directed to Ron Default.

Joan said that Larry Feinberg's introduction at the Wall Breaking was inspiring, and with the Paris attack day before, he spoke with emotion.

The next event on docent calendars is Fearing Librarian Heather Brodhead's retirement party on Wednesday, December 16th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Museum Cafe. The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Upper Level Conference Room.

[See President's Report, attached.]

Vice President, Gail Stichler

Gail thanked Holiday Party hosts Andrea and Ron Gallo for use of their lovely home, thanked the Social Committee, and thanked our in-house floral designer Denise Klassen. Gail said it was a sentiment of gratitude she felt looking out at the hosts' yard filled with docents; that she loved Patsy's talk remarking on the conservation of tradition and knowledge in the docents recognized for 30, 35, and 5 years experience being shared there with Provisionals.

The next docent event is the February 6th, 2016 bus trip to Long Beach. The featured artist and the Director of the Long Beach Museum of Art are excited to meet us, and Gail reminded us how special it is to meet with artists. John Sanders has done a lot of leg work for this excursion.

Forty-eight docents--and one joining during the Board Meeting, are on the list for the New York trip, April 24th-29th. Gail will send hotel booking information in the next 3-4 days. Twenty-two rooms (3 suites @ \$300 for up to 3 people, and spacious double rooms at \$260) have been set aside and will be held till March 10th, 2016, without cancellation liability. Three docents will have outside accommodations. Gail gave great thought to the location and advantages for docents, and having roamed the immediate neighborhood, appreciates the lesser intensity than that of hotels on 8th Avenue.

[See Vice President's Report, attached.]

Secretary, Vikki Duncan

Encouragement cards were sent to Ellen Lawson and Andrea Gallo following their surgeries. UCSB Professors John Snyder and Richard Wittman received thank-you letters for their joint presentation on the biography, inspirations, and works of Piranesi. Copies of the December 2015 *La Muse* with tributes to late colleagues will be sent to their families.

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

The Docent account balances for November were as follows:

Checking beginning balance was \$7,722.09 on October 30th, and the ending balance was \$6,578.63 on November 30th. The savings beginning balance was \$10,778.64 on October 23rd, and the ending balance was \$10,779.97 on November 24th, 2015.

[See Treasurer's Report, attached]

Membership, Michi Ho

In November, docents reported 16 public hours and 501 research hours for a total of 3,741 hours reported year-to-date.

Laura Six has requested a change to Sustainer effective November 29, 2015. A motion to grant the change was carried. Laura will be at a lot of our general docent meetings.

[See Membership Chair Report, attached.]

Adult Teams: Christine Holland and Teda Pilcher

Christine reported that three scheduled tours (1 Latin American, 1 Portraits, and 1 Techniques) had zero visitors, and during the Quire of Voyces performance, three Ten Talks had zero visitors. A total of 321 visitors were on 48 regularly scheduled tours and 5 special tours. Total numbers were down in November because Asian tours were cancelled. There were no issues with docents.

Joan commented that it never seems to come out that the Adult Team's Chair's job is a lot of work, that it requires good sensibilities with people, and that the work continues over Christmas and New Years.

[See Adult Team Chair Report, attached.]

Student Teams: Karen Brill

In November, 286 students toured, including special request tours. Karen said it's interesting to know what the grade levels are. The numbers for special after school tours are with Rachael; Karen does not coordinate these tours. The Binder for recording the final report for a team's regular student tours is available again. Karen sent out a reminder to Student Team Leaders about filling out the final report. Mary Winder is the leader of the Classroom Presentation Team. She listed the elements of art for second grade, and she did a lovely job, listing pieces in our Museum.

[See Student Teams Chair Report, attached.]

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara remarked that this is a busy time of year for Research. With help from Rachael Krieps and Kelly Almeda, Barbara has completed an exhaustive list of objects without research. On November 18th, she made a presentation on research papers to the Provisional Class, and they selected topics for their papers from American art, photographs, Modern/Contemporary work, and European work, but none from

Antiquities or Asian art). Works in the Hammer Collection have been included for the first time. The first draft is due on January 3rd, and the final paper is due in February.

Groves Encyclopedia of Art from the now closed Fearing Library will be moved to the Docent Office, and other reference works will be arriving from curatorial staff.

Barbara traced the steps in the research review process: initial review by the Research Chair [Barbara or her assistant, Francis Hallinan v.w.d.], then review by the Education Department [Rachael Krieps], and curatorial for final approval. As soon as Barbara approves a paper, it is forwarded to the webmaster for posting with a disclaimer that the material has been submitted for curatorial review.

[See Research Chair's Report, attached]

Evaluations: Paul Guido

Paul said that the comment field on the evaluation form recommending a second evaluation is working. Once it's stated, the person is open to it. Usually the evaluator or Paul works with the docent before the re-evaluation or Paul calls on someone for this. Evaluators are asked to submit both the completed original and the re-evaluation form to Paul.

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree had no new web business to report, but she has straightened up the Docent Office. When asked about a Piranesi paper or giving the topic to Provisionals, Loree replied that there is an extensive Piranesi paper by Susan von Drehle. Gail volunteered to type this for posting to the website. Loree will continue to search through files for helpful materials, and said that we'll revisit the drawers next year. Recovering the chair seats in the docent office also came up in discussion. This would be maintaining the furniture, which was donated and gifted to the docents.

Nominations: Molora Vadnais

Molora Vadnais was unable to attend the meeting. Joan suggested discussion with Molora and Vikki, last year's Nomination Chair, regarding the process.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Christine Holland initiated the subject of "cobwebs on Hermes" and the need for cleaning up of the artwork. Karen Brill followed up with her question of how to report the things we notice.

ADJOURNMENT:

Joan adjourned the meeting at p.m.

Note: Monthly Board Reports are filed behind the Minutes in the Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes Binder located in the Docent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Vikki Duncan, Secretary