

Docent Council, Double Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: June 3, 2015

Present: Molora Vadnais, Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Linda Adams, Denise Klassen, Mei Chih Ho, Christine Holland, Teda Pilcher, Paul Guido, Ralph Wilson, Sylvia Mabee, Barbara Boyd, Monica Babich, Loree Gold, Vikki Duncan, Rachael Kriepps

CALL TO ORDER:

President:

In-Coming President Joan Dewhirst called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Minutes of the Meeting of May 11, 2015 were approved. Joan thanked Molora for opening her home and hosting this breakfast meeting.

Out-going President Molora Vadnais said that she had received notes and contributions from Sustainer Kyoko Sweeney and from Marilyn and Jeffrey Harding in memory of Maria Kryczkowska. The notes have been forwarded to Membership. In follow-up on previous Board discussion of the handling of honorary and memorial donations to the Docent Council, Molora reported that the Museum is set up to hold these assets till needed, and that the contact is Barbara Ben-Horin.

BOARD REPORTS

Vice President: Joan Dewhirst (Out-going):

Joan reviewed the year's educational and social activities: visits to LACMA and the Huntington Library and Gardens to see the New Chinese Gardens and American Art Pavillion; Pma Tregenza's organization of walking tours of outdoor sculpture in downtown Los Angeles lead by artist John Hillis Sanders; the Lotus Land visit and curator's tour of the special art exhibition; the UCSB tour of Asian shaman art lead by collector Barry Kitnick and arranged by Shirley Waxman; the Westwood trip to UCLA's sculpture garden and the Hammer Museum; the Palo Alto trip to art Museums at Stanford and the private McMurtry collection--written up in La Muse by Josie Martin; and the spring bus trip to the Weisman Foundation in Los Angeles.

Joan thanked Molora for hosting the Holiday Party attended by 75 docents, and thanked the Social Committee (Christy Close, Nicola Gherson, Wendi Hunter, Denise Klassen, Sheila Prendiville, Mike Ramey and Geri Servi) for their yeoman's job in the success of the Holiday Party and the year's social events.

Reporting on Museum sponsored docent events, Joan said that 33 prospective docents attended the recruitment event, and thanked the Education Department for the enjoyable and memorable service recognition ceremony and reception.

Joan also extended a special congratulations to Christine Holland for her record number of personally arranged tours of the *Botticelli, Titian, and Beyond* exhibition.

Secretary: Linda Adams (Out-going):

Linda reported that the year went smoothly--easy and fun, and she acknowledged Wendi Hunter's service as the Corresponding Secretary, whose work including sending several notes of condolence.

Treasurer: Denise Klassen

Denise submitted reports of current year activity and checking and savings account balances through May 2015. Although year-to-date expenses of \$6,133.38 exceed budgeted amounts by \$541.43, checks received totaling \$1020 for the Weisman trip will be deposited and be reflected in the final fiscal year reporting. The checking account balance as of May 29th, 2015 was \$5,225.77. The savings account balance on May 22nd was \$10,012.33.

A suggestion was made to include but note separately in the Council's financial reports any funds donated to the Council specifically for Docent-determined use but held by the Museum.

Denise will prepare a final report after these adjustments.

[See final End-of-Year Report, attached.]

Membership: Mei Chih Ho

Mei Chih reported docent numbers for 2015 as follows: 69 Active Docents, 4 Inactive (Leaves of Absence), 29 Sustainers, and zero Provisionals. A total approaching 14,000 service hours (Public Touring and Research) was reported through May. Service Award pins have been earned by six docents (Susan Billig, Vikki Duncan, Kathy Eastman, Andrea Gallo, Rosemarie Gebhart, and Gail Stichler) for five years of service, one for ten years (Christine Holland), two for fifteen years (Laura DePaoli and Loree Gold), one for 20 years (Amanda McIntyre), one for 25 years (Ricki Morse), and one for 30 years of service (Faith Henkin). Michi thanked the Board for its action to recognize docents, calling them truly the public face and soul of the Museum. Joan thanked Michi for her beautiful address at the Recognition Ceremony.

[See full End-of-Year Membership Report, attached.]

Adult Teams: Christine Holland and Teda Pilcher

Christine reported that although May 2015 touring numbers still were to be compiled, tours between June 1st, 2014 and May 31st, 2105, already tallied (including the year's special exhibitions: Contemporary to Modern; Art to Zoo; Botticelli, Titian, and Beyond; but not including Ten Talks), totaled 6,565 visitors.

Christine extended her appreciation to docents for flexibility during change: the cancellation of exhibitions (Plains of Mars, William Blake) the postponement of the Latin American Photography exhibition, the addition of Contemporary to Modern, the huge spike in numbers with Botticelli (96 tours and 2,200 visitors toured), extended touring dates for Daumier, Portraits, and Sculpture Teams to provide variety; changed dates for Maholy-Nagy; and the creation of new Focus teams--Portraits, Sculpture, and Techniques--which will continue in 2016.

During discussion of changes, Evaluations Chair Paul Guido asked that he be notified of Adult touring changes as these affect evaluation scheduling.

Asian and European Focus tours, as well as Highlights have gone very well this year, including discretionary 30 minute (rather than 45 minute) tours.

Reviewing additional Adult Touring programs, Christine noted that Ten Talks have been well received, and there is discussion of including Ten Talks during the day. Christine added, "Thank You," to Chase Bank for support of Free Thursday admission. The new and successful Community Speakers Program will continue in 2016. Christine reported that docents had

volunteered to tour on Slow Art Day in April, and for the High School Events, New Comers, New Members Receptions, and Special Requests. She also noted that 11-12 docents had stepped up to tour Highlights in the Summer in the absence of a newly graduated Provisional Class.

Under issues and concerns, Christine reported that tours offered with zero visitors attending occurred across Adult Touring teams and averaged several per month. Although there were docent-missed tours, which are a problem, overall performance is better as is reporting, and Rachael has sent reminders to docents.

Recalling the success of *Botticelli, Titian, and Beyond*, which received media attention in New York, Christine said congratulations to the Museum and Director on this exhibition, and that we hope for more exhibitions of this note.

Although there is uncertainty for 2016, Christine said that she knows that docents will handle closures and changes with enthusiasm and flexibility.

In concluding, Christine thanked Teda Pilcher for her work, saying she had done a marvelous job in preparing the calendar and Red Book sheets for reporting.

[See final End-of-Year Adult Teams Report, attached.]

Student Teams: Sylvia Mabee (Incoming) for Kathy Eastman (Out-going)

Sylvia reported that no Student Tours took place at the Museum in May and June. Activity took place at Ridley Tree Education Center as planned: Loree Gold and Teda Pilcher made PowerPoint presentations and students engaged in hands-on art activities. Sylvia also said that Power Point presentations in schools went pretty well this year.

Plans for touring in the coming year will depend on news related to exhibitions and Museum renovation plans.

In discussion of equipment for presentations, Loree Gold noted parts replacement needs already reported, and along with Sylvia clarified the optimal environment (e.g. Luria) for use of the mobile-device connecting projector versus typical classroom environments.

Provisional Chairs: Ralph Wilson and Mary Ellen Hoffman

Ralph Wilson also reported the recruitment event attendance and receipt of 10 applications. Asked about a maximum class size, Ralph said that they hope for a large class and that there is no upper limit.

Ralph referred to the report of the revised Provisional Training curriculum in the June *La Muse*. He thanked those who helped with the revision, and those who will help in the coming year. Wendi Hunter will assist the Provisional Chairs, training to step into the role in the future. The Provisional Chairs will ask Active Docents for help as mentors in Student Touring training. Provisionals will present one piece on an Active Docent's Student Tour in Fall, two pieces with a transition in Winter, and give a full student tour under supervision in the Spring. Ralph suggested a team of ten docents who would agree to serve all year. Loree Gold suggested approaching a given team and scheduling Provisional tours on the team's touring days. Vikki suggested an open schedule to make more Active docents available. Ralph said that he would like Provisionals to experience touring at each grade level, but that would depend on the size of the class. The Provisional Chairs anticipate that the Council will accommodate the requests of Provisionals--our

next colleagues, to tour with us. Ralph said there would be an evaluation by the Active Docent, making the experience real-world and meaningful for the Provisional, and that he will send the evaluation form to the Council for comment. Student Teams Chair Sylvia Mabee underscored the significance of this training for the Provisionals' four-year Student Touring commitment.

Joan Dewhirst asked whether docents might be given two weeks lead-time in scheduling training tours. Molora recommended that the Provisional Chairs receive advance copies of the Student Touring Calendar from the Education Department before the monthly release to docents.

Also thinking about scheduling for fall, Sylvia Mabee added that we should encourage docents to attend Educator's Events to realize the part of the schools [in the Education Department's programs].

Provisional Co-Chair Mary Ellen Hoffman was away.

Evaluations: Paul Guido

Overall the process is working well. Paul has received 39 evaluations. Two more Student Tour evaluations were expected but not completed due to an evaluator's oversight. [Also note the comment under the Adult Teams Report requesting that the Evaluations Chair be notified of all staffing changes on Teams as these changes affect the evaluations process. v.w.d.] Paul concluded, reporting that he and Kathryn Padgett will present the Council's evaluation process at the 2015 National Docent Symposium in Cincinnati, Ohio, in September.

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara welcomed Monica Babich as Co-Chair, noting the vision, energy, and training she brings to the role. Monica will be largely responsible for the review of Provisional research papers in Winter, a period of heavy professional commitment for Barbara.

Barbara stated the goal of having a quality paper for all objects in the permanent collection. A list of papers needed for distribution to the Provisional class has been started.

Noting that the biggest constraint in posting research papers has been the timing of curatorial review, Barbara said this year was different. With help from Rachael Kriepps, papers related to the *Botticelli* exhibition were posted in time to be used in touring, and three PowerPoint presentations to docents placed works in the context of the artist's time, career, and in relation to others.

Barbara commended Ralph Wilson and Ricki Morse, as well as Josie Martin, Monica Babich, and Wendi Hunter for their research contributions, especially helpful in a year when we did not have a Provisional class writing research papers.

Research has moved forward this year and the Co-Chairs will continue to try to serve the Council thus well.

[See End-of-Year Adult Teams Report, attached.]

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree said that the year had gone smoothly: Communication has been good, Word Press is working, and there is no need to change now. Checklists, wall cards, calendars--all are up. Research papers submitted for curatorial review now are posted with a disclaimer at the beginning

of the post. Seven papers have been added this year. The Techniques section has seen the most growth. Somewhere between 15-20 papers which were written in different years are not posted and Loree is taking steps (compiling lists and requesting copies) to see them posted. Despite on-going investigation into applications compatible with the Word Press, no way has been found to offer docents a fillable pdf evaluation form on-line. A printable pdf form is on the website. Docents also may email Evaluations Chair Paul Guido and he will send a copy as needed.

New projects Loree sees include creating a protocol for archiving, and a checklist of duties.

In reply to Monica Babich's question of why so few images of the permanent collection are on line on the docent website, Loree answered that the quality of available images is a concern. Vikki added that manpower is another, and that in migration from the old website with single administrator and posting capability to the new website supporting multiple contributors, the focus was on works currently on display. Additionally, access to images is restricted; we do not have access to the Registrar's files on the Museum server. Either Rachael has to request images or we have to capture them ourselves. Rachael reminded us that the Museum is in the process of transferring data to The Museum System (TMS) [an application widely-used by museums to post images of the collection on-line v.w.d.]. The question was raised whether we might have images filtered from TMS to the Research Chairs and the Webmaster. Rachael cautioned that even for works in SBMA's collection, there are restrictions, e.g., those of the Artists' Rights Society and permissions.

Nominations: Vikki Duncan (Out-going):

Vikki reported that the Nominations Committee, composed of the Council President, Vice President, Nominations Chair, and the Docent Program Manager, met in January 2015 to review Board positions and suggest possible candidates. In discussion with incumbents, it was determined that there would be two openings on the 2016 Board.

Open nominations were announced in the February 2015 *La Muse* and at the Council Meeting of February 6th. The closing date for submitting additional nominations to appear in the printed slate was March 31st. No additional nominations were received from the Council at large. The slate of candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee on behalf of the Board then was announced in the April *La Muse* and presented at the April 1st Council Meeting, and the May 6th date of the formal election at the Docent Council Meeting was announced. Also at the meeting on April 1st, incumbent officers--Secretary Linda Adams and Student Teams Chair Kathy Eastman, who were stepping down from the Board at the end of the year, were thanked for their service. No additional nominations were received from the floor at the May 6th Meeting, and the slate was elected by unanimous acclamation of the Docent Council Members present. The newly elected officers were invited to attend the Double Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 10th. [Note: the date of the Double Board Meeting was subsequently changed by agreement to June 3rd. v.w.d.]

[See End-of-Year Nominations Chair Report, attached.]

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Director Patsy Hicks was unable to attend. Docent Program Manager Rachael Kriepps said that the coming year would bring challenges, and that she knew docents would handle these with grace and flexibility. The summer would be busy with forming Adult Teams. She asked for meetings at Ridley Tree Education Center.

Rachael provided updates from the Senior Staff Meeting. Starting in August, the majority of Antiquities will not be on view. Julie Joyce and Larry Feinberg are discussing works for Cayetano

Ferrer's installation. Storage will be in the side galleries. Regarding the Asian Collection, Larry and Curator Susan Tai have different views, but we will wait to see how the Galleries will be impacted if renovation begins in September.

Joan Dewhirst commented that she is looking forward to seeing our American Collection again. Rachael replied that European and some American would be up, then, beginning in 2016, there would be a show of British Romanticism drawn from the Permanent Collection. In addition, there would be print rotations, and Ridley Tree will remain open.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Joan Dewhirst announced that the first Board Meeting for the 2016 service year will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 in Luria. Subsequent meetings may be in the FRC [Family Resources Center]. The first Docent Council Meeting will be on September 23rd, and the first Provisional meeting is tentatively scheduled on September 30th.

Social time before Docent Council Meetings will be held in the Museum Café this year. Following tradition, the Docent Board will provide refreshments for the first Council Meeting. Joan will email Board Members to make plans. A Refreshments Coordinator is needed to take over the role which Denise Klassen carried out this past year.

New Active Docent research presentations have been scheduled beginning with Jay Frederick on October 7. Monica Babich, Wendi Hunter, Marc Brody, and Kim Smith all will make presentations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Joan adjourned the meeting at 11:35 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 (2016 In-coming)