

Draft Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: November 10, 2015

Present: Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Vikki Duncan, 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 10:35 a.m.

Board Reports

President, Joan Dewhirst

Minutes of Board Meeting of October 14, 2015 were approved.

Joan shared her thoughts about docents' part in the Museum's Capital Campaign funding, and proposed a message of support to the Council from the Board. Discussion favored providing support in a tangible way. Many points were raised, including these: the success of the Women's Board with gifts for the Docent Classroom, whether the Council might augment contributions from individual docents; the advisability of using Council funds later in the renovation project (e.g., for the Docent Room or technology), co-ordinating gifts through the Development Office before December 31st to provide tax receipts for individual contributors, the desirability and significance in grant writing of 100% [constituent] participation, the confidentiality of contributions, including in any gift from the Council those amounts already pledged by docents, that a docent's contribution of any size would become part of something bigger, and that the ripple effect would be great. The Board unanimously approved a proposal to present a message to docents encouraging full participation in support of the Capital Campaign at the Council Meeting on December 2nd.

Service recognition of docents not present at the May 2015 ceremony [Kathy Eastman - 5 years, Ricki Morse - 25 years, Faith Henkin - 30 years] will be given at the Holiday Party on December 7th.

Following a tutorial session with web administrator Mike Ramey, Joan has updated the dates of docent events on the website.

[See President's Report, attached.]

Vice President, Gail Stichler

Gail gave the financial report on the Getty bus trip, which resulted in \$890 net income as more people participated than projected when the price was set based on estimated numbers. This income is available to offset costs on future bus trips.

The next bus trip will be on February 6, 2016, for a full day in Long Beach visiting the Museum of Art, lunch at Claire's, a bus ride to CSULB to tour their sculpture garden and Art Museum, meeting with featured artists. Nineteen people are on the list for this trip organized by Pma Tregenza with artist John Hillis Sanders.

Holiday Party invitations will be mailed this week. The December 7th event will be at the Santa Barbara Foundation home of Andrea and Ron Gallo.

The Wellington Hotel has been booked for the New York trip of April 24th-29th, 2016. Gail will be contacting docents on the interest list to make reservations in December. Patsy suggested an additional venue and is forwarding additional suggestions for Gail's consideration.

[See Vice President's Report, attached.]

Secretary, Vikki Duncan:

Vikki thanked the Board for sending their reports electronically. In mid-October, Nicola Gherson took over the role of corresponding secretary, with her first thank-you note to Docent Council Meeting speaker Dr. Idurre Alonso, Associate Curator of Latin American Art at the Getty Museum, for her talk on Latin American Photography in connection with *Looking In, Looking Out*. Earlier in the month Gail Stichler gave Getty Curator Dr. Kenneth Lapatin a thank-you card signed by all docents at the conclusion of Dr. Lapatin's tour of *Power and Pathos: Ancient Hellenistic Bronzes*. Gail also sent a get-well card signed by docents to Shirley Waxman. Cards of caring and support were sent to Michi Ho and Ellen Lawson. Vikki sent a condolence card to Jean Smith on the loss of her husband.

Vikki will resume work to see that Docent Meeting Minutes are posted to the Docent Website.

[See Secretary's Report, attached.]

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

Joan read the summary lines of Denise's monthly report. The checking account beginning balance was \$9,680.60, and was \$7,722.09 on September 30, 2015. The savings account beginning balance was \$10,062.40 and was \$10,778.64 on September 24, 2015. The increase in savings was because of a transfer of dues received from checking to savings.

[See monthly Treasurers Report, attached.]

Membership: Mei Chih Ho

Mei Chih's report noted service year membership at 64 Active docents [but 2 leaves of absence], 4 resigned, and 33 Sustainers. Public hours reported were 255 and research hours were 2263. Total hours reported year to date are 2518. Provisional hours for September and October are forthcoming.

Adult Teams: Christine Holland and Teda Pilcher

Christine reported 327 visitors on 54 Adult tours in October for an average of six per tour. There was one Special Request tour with 22 visitors. Six scheduled tours (five Highlights and one Portraits tour) had zero visitors. One European tour couldn't be given due to lack of access to the gallery. Gallery tours and attendance were down for the month of October. A four-month view is as follows: September - 413, August - 414, July - 494, June - 238. Christine expressed the hope that November numbers will be better with new exhibits open. The Community Speakers Program gave two presentations to 36 people with an average attendance of 18.

[See Adult Team Chair Report, attached.]

Student Teams: Karen Brill

In October, 118 students from two schools toured. Two classes without transportation had to cancel their tours. We now have a bunch of angels [Karen Howsam, Ann Hammond, Denise Klassen, and Shirley Waxman], so it is not as stressful for the teams. Karen Brill will be filling in on Mike Ramey's team on 3rd and 4th Thursday. Rosemarie Gebhart has offered to tour full-time on the team, so the team will be at capacity. Vikki Duncan is back-up. Karen reported on a meeting with Student Team leaders. It was resolved that after touring, all teams will return their students to the responsible adult and take them outside of the Museum. Larry had requested this in the past and we will follow through in an attempt to cut down on the noise level. With the remodel, ever changing art in the galleries, large classes, and fewer docents touring students, there is concern about the safety of the art. Docents are also concerned that there will be only a few galleries open and too many students in too few rooms.

Board Reports, continued

Tours might need to be shortened, and we can make use of the FRC whenever possible. It was agreed that flexibility will be vital as we tour students during the remodel. Karen also suggested that while we've had few tours this fall, we will have a nice start in January.

[See Student Teams Chair Report, attached.]

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

Ralph reported that we now have 7 Provisionals after six left in the first five weeks. This attrition is expected, but usually by the end of the training. The Provisionals withdrew due to family reasons, personal illness, business reasons, and changed life interests. To encourage retention, Patsy and Rachel talked with the class. Karen mentioned that her mentee was very inspired by hearing how important they [Provisionals] are to the Museum, not just the Council. The Provisional Trainers have changed the syllabus, giving the Provisionals more time in the galleries and assigning the 3-Minute talk in December [12/9]. There were very positive feelings as the Provisionals chose their pieces in Ridley Tree Gallery for their presentations. At the next Provisional meeting, Barbara Boyd will talk with them about their research papers, so they will be introduced to those as well as the 3-Minute Talk before the Thanksgiving break. Continuing work includes VTS practice--Ralph noted Rachel's excellent presentation, the research paper, observing adult and student tours, as well as readings in Living With Art. Replying to a question whether the focus on student touring might have had an effect on retention, Ralph clarified reasons for Provisional departures. No pattern emerged.

The Provisional Chairs will introduce Provisionals and identify their mentors at the Holiday Party on December 7th. Introductions will be brief so that the time is spent in social interaction.

[See Provisional Chair Report, attached.]

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara is getting ready to provide information to Provisionals on research papers. She is focusing on 1) presenting the information in a way that brings up as little anxiety as possible, and 2) identifying what art to research that might be up on the walls in the near future.

Patsy Hicks encouraged acceptance of choices of art that might not be on view later, adding that they [the Education Department] would make the best possible images available in printout for research, and also noting that there might be some substitution of projected images for art work going into storage. Asked about upcoming changes and works to be included in the 75th Anniversary installation, Patsy mentioned exhibiting the Maillol, the Pechstein, Monets, some Hammer materials as likely subject to conditions in the renovation, and a photo gallery in the print room in honor of Karen Sinsheimer. There's also been mention of loans. Patsy concluded citing the need for and docent ability to be creative and nimble.

[See Research Chair's Report, attached]

Evaluations: Paul Guido

A suggestion was made to allay docent concerns about trying to meet the formal evaluation criteria (e.g. five galleries) during this time of transition by providing evaluators with some guidance. Such guidance might include a shorter evaluation (e.g. 20 minutes of the tour) or looking for the given criteria to be met in presenting a couple of pieces. There was concurrence on providing some guidance via La Muse and/or to be presented at a Council Meeting.

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree Gold had no news to report, but noted that "As the galleries change, so will we."

Nominations: Molora Vadnais

A suggestion was made to post the call for nominations for next year's Board on the website in advance. Molora did not have a report. [The Nominations Committee convenes later in the year. v.w.d.]

Department Of Education: Patsy Hicks and Rachael Kriepps

Director Patsy Hicks shared the sad news that Efrem Ostrow had passed away quickly and peacefully on Friday, November 6th. The burial will be on Thursday, November 12th at the Santa Barbara Cemetery. The Board unanimously voted in favor of a memorial resolution drafted by Patsy Hicks honoring Efrem. The resolution will be presented to the family immediately. Patsy, who was a classmate of Efrem, will speak at the December 2nd Council Meeting. Efrem wanted to recognize the Museum in some way. His wishes might be conveyed in the obituary. A memorial is anticipated in spring.

Patsy noted that we are exhibition rich with Cayetano Ferrer and Peter Halley [opened November 8]. Unfortunately the video tape of Peter Halley's presentation on Sunday, November 8, stops midway due a camera memory problem. The IT staff is very behind on posting videos. However, the senior staff intend to post all videos on-line on the Museum website provided the speaker agrees. The senior staff are working on this. The Asian Galleries are open today, but we are advised to check the status daily.

Patsy then covered upcoming events. The "Wall Breaking" will be on Saturday, November 14th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Our being there will say that we are part of the most ambitious undertaking in the Museum's history. There will be remarks, the symbolic wall breaking with sledge hammers, projects set up by the teaching artists, jazz and activity on the front steps, a light sculpture, and a band playing when the event will open to the public after the rsvp reception. This is a time to review the Capital Campaign Talking Points, wear our badges, and answer questions.

Varietades, Ruben Gonzalez' performance akin to corridos with critical karaoke on November 12th will be more spicy than most events and very political. Rafa [artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer], who is known in LA and for work at Site Santa Fe also will perform.

Director Larry Feinberg has been receptive to alternate programming to help build audiences during this time of renovation.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Joan adjourned the meeting at 12:04 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