

Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date:October 14, 2015

Present: Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Vikki Duncan, Denise Klassen, Christine Holland, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Paul Guido, Barbara Boyd, Loree Gold, Patsy Hicks

Call To Order: Joan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Board Reports

President, Joan Dewhirst

Minutes of Board Meeting of September 9, 2015 were approved as corrected: under the President's Report, funding for the purchase of new equipment to be shared by the Community Speakers Program and the Classroom Presentation Team is from The Capital Campaign funds as the purpose of the expenditure is in keeping with the Museum's mission.

Joan thanked the Education Department staff and the Museum Café for the morning treats and meeting space, and noted the need to conclude business before the Café's opening time.

Referring to the Docent Council Meeting of October 7th, Joan thanked the Board, Patsy Hicks, and Kelly Almeida for their quick action and support of the plan to honor retiring Fearing Librarian Heather Broadhead by making her a Lifetime Honorary Docent. Joan quoted Patsy's presentation to Heather, saying that "Resources will remain available after the Library closes, but Heather is the resource we will miss the most." Joan also reported on New Active Docent Jay Frederick's interesting research presentation on the Greek Black Figure Hydria and his handling of questions from docents, and noted invited speaker and Getty Curator of Antiquities Dr. Kenneth Lapatin's corroborating comment.

Joan has received two leave of absence requests, the first from Gabriella Schooley for fall, and the second from Monica Babich for service year 2015-2016. Following discussion including a review of Inactive Status in the By-Laws, the Board unanimously approved both leaves.

Sharing sad news, Joan told the Board that Jean Smith's husband passed away in the early morning on Monday, October 12. The date and time of the memorial were not yet available.

Joan thanked Patsy Hicks for the quick turnaround to docents of John Coplin's notice of the removal of statues in Ludington Court (October 14-16), and the closure of the State Street entrance for those days, as both events affect touring.

Three docents who were unable to attend the Service Awards on May 26th: Kathy Eastman [5 years], Ricki Morse [25 years] and Faith Henkin [30 years], will be acknowledged at the Docent Council Meeting of November 4th. Speakers are being arranged.

Joan congratulated Loree Gold on the success of her collaborative photographic exhibition, *Of My Blood*, the first with her mother, photographer Joyce Wilson. The exhibition is on view at the Santa Barbara Tennis Club through November 6th.

Joan also encouraged visits to the fabulous, interactive installations and projects with artists in the Family Resource Center.

[See President's Report, attached.]

Vice President, Gail Stichler

On October 5th, artists Dane Goodman and Keith Puccinelli gave 14 docents a tour of their exhibition [*tug*] at the Ridley-Tree Museum of Art at Westmont College. Keith Puccinelli does not often meet and greet visitors, and the dialog between the two artists was enlightening and enlivening.

Following the dialog with the artists, docents went to Shirley Waxman's home for wine and cheese. It was a wonderful opportunity to continue conversations with our fellow docents in a comfortable and beautiful setting.

Forty-three people including three Provisionals have signed up for the bus trip to the Getty Center on Tuesday, October 20, to see the *Power and Pathos* exhibition. Curator Dr. Kenneth Lapatin has agreed to give two tours (at 11:00 a.m and 1:00 p.m.) to our group. He has been very responsive to the request to tour our docents since Gail's initial contact this summer.

The annual Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 7th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the beautiful home of Andrea Gallo.

Forty-four people have indicated interest in a docent New York City trip. Dates will be April 24-29, 2016. A survey has been sent to those on that list to determine what kind of rooms to request. Gail's goal is to confirm the hotel within the next two weeks.

[See Vice President's Report, attached.]

Secretary, Vikki Duncan:

Thank you notes were written to our Docent Council Meeting speakers, UCSB Professor Colin Gardner and Dr. Kenneth Lapatin, Co-Curator of *Power and Pathos*. Jay Frederick also will receive a thank-you for his research presentation. Cards of support were sent to Ann Robinson, Pma Tregenza, and Jan Lynch. Andrea Gallo will receive a card of support as she will undergo surgery later this month.

[See Secretary's Report, attached.]

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

The checking account beginning balance on August 31st was \$9,534.41, and \$9,680.60 as of September 30, 2015. The savings account beginning balance on August 24th was \$10,016,12 and was \$10,062.40 on September 24, 2015.

Denise reviewed funding and reimbursement requests by the Board members who participated in the 2015 National Docent Symposium in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 16-20th. Following discussion, the Board voted unanimously to reimburse Council President Joan Dewhirst and Symposium Break-out Session presenter Kathryn Padgett \$1400 each using funds set aside and carried forward annually to subsidize the participation of the President and the Vice President--who did not attend this year, and to reimburse co-presenter Paul Guido \$450.

[See monthly Treasurers Report, attached.]

Membership: Mei Chih Ho

Mei Chih was unable to attend but submitted a report for the Minutes.

[See Membership Chair Report, attached.]

Adult Teams: Christine Holland [Co-Chair Teda Pilcher was away.]

Christine said that Adult Teams is proceeding apace preparing the fall schedule with Teda's help, and filling tours. Numbers for Museum visitors and tours in September were as follows: 413 on 51 tours (8.1 per-tour-average). The numbers include one special request tour by Gwen Baker with 28 visitors. Three tours were cancelled due to gallery closures. There was one docent-missed tour, and two Highlights and one Techniques tour had zero visitors.

[See Adult Team Chair Report, October 14, 2015, attached.]

Student Teams: Karen Brill

Karen Brill was unable to attend but provided a report. Joan remarked that the timing of taking over the Student Teams role was tough, but that Karen has done the job before. After Karen's initial call for angels, Shirley Waxman and Denise Klassen have volunteered to be angels to help the Student Touring Teams. Karen also is planning to meet with Student Team leaders in early November.

[See Student Teams Chair Report, attached.]

Provisional Co-Chair: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Mary Ellen Hoffman and Ralph Wilson will alternate attending the Board Meetings; Co-Chair Ralph Wilson was conducting class. Reporting on the Provisional Class, Mary Ellen said that it is a solid class of 12 (one Provisional withdrew due to family reasons). They gave their 3-minute Spotlight Talks last week, and have their first quiz on the Museum galleries this week. Three Provisionals will be on the bus trip to the Getty. Starting with the next meeting [October 21st] they will be attending the Docent Council Meetings to hear the lectures more relevant to our permanent collection. The front row in the auditorium will be reserved for them.

[See Provisional Chair Report, attached.]

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara discussed the Research Chair's need for assistance now that Co-Chair Monica Babich is on leave. Barbara's most pressing need will be help with the Provisional papers. Rather than to name a replacement Co-Chair at this time, Barbara prefers to appoint an assistant--as is allowed by the By-Laws. Francis Hallinan separately had expressed interest in helping and Barbara is following up with her.

[See Research Chair's Report, attached]

Evaluations: Paul Guido

Paul confirmed that evaluations have been set up, but with the upcoming gallery changes, he is waiting to hear what is or is not cancelled. With the closure of the Asian galleries starting 11/9, Paul is crossing off Asian team tour evaluations for winter and spring.

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree said that the docent calendar has not been posted, but that the Research Chair, Mike, and Loree have been accurate and timely in posting everything they have received (e.g., the title cards and wall text for exhibitions). They are focusing on rebuilding this month, and Loree proposed a brief review of how to navigate the website. This could be announced at the next Council Meeting, and Loree would be available after the Meeting to look at the website with interested docents.

Nominations: Molora Vadnais

Molora Vadnais was unable to attend and had no report to make.

Department Of Education: Patsy Hicks [Rachael Kriepps was away.]

Director Patsy Hicks had news from John Coplin: Ludington Court will be closed Friday morning [October 16]. In view of the closure, Patsy said that she so appreciates all that [docents] do, that we are needed and there are alternatives [to Antiquities] to tour. Many interesting things are happening. Docents can take students to the FRC where the Art Division artists will talk with the children and demonstrate printmaking, and they can tour Latin American before wall labels are installed. Asked about touring in Thayer Gallery, Patsy said that Thayer would be out [objects removed], but it would be open during the Educators Event [October 16, 4-6 p.m.] for access to Latin American and the activities.

Piranesi is opening [Sunday, October 18] with the Panini hung outside the exhibition. UCSB Professor John Snyder will give a docent talk on Piranesi. *Interventions*, Cayetano Ferrer's juxtaposition of kitch and classicism, of prostheticism and technology using remnants of lesser value; and Peter Halley's abstractions in *Geometries of the Absurd* will open November 8th. While Asian will be off-view--a concern for several years, some large Asian sculptures will be included in the distillation of high quality objects from each of the collection areas. The checklist is not available yet, but Monet, Pechstein, Maillol, and Harnett have been mentioned. Other American work is not confirmed. A photography exhibition in honor of Karen Sinsheimer also is under discussion.

In upcoming events, Josh Kuhn's lecture is next Sunday [October 24th] at 2:30 p.m. Ruben Martinez' *Variedades* [November 19th], a performance drawing on the format of variety shows, but dealing with issues of the border through the lens of music is one of the programs to bring in audiences. Cards publicizing *Variedades* will be given out at Dia de Los Muertos event [Sunday, October 25th]. Ticketing is not working yet on the new Museum website, and Patsy asks docents to be ambassadors to smooth over [any visitor frustration].

The Educators Event in January will feature VTS co-founder Philip Yenawine. In Spring, Brian Hogarth, Director of Leadership in Museum Education at Bank Street College (NYC) and former Director of Education at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art will talk about the Museum in the 21st Century, asking what is our role? We'll have the opportunity to hear two voices speaking about 21st Century educational pedagogy in presentations to docents and to the public.

On the new Museum website, exhibitions look better as images are larger, and the site is more searchable, but the information is the same. By Monday [October 25th], 100 objects will be on-line and searchable. Patsy encouraged patience as more is done.

Julie Joyce and Delphine Sims are working on an interactive installation involving Charles Long's *Sundae Sculpting School* for the FRC that will open in February. The artist also will be present and will talk about his work.

The last exhibition currently in the books is *Puja and Piety*.

During the renovation, then, Powerpoint presentations will keep the Museum alive in the community. Other ideas also presented include putting objects in a school or public space, and giving mini or Ten Talks in the area.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Referring to a recent event in which one docent's tour was impinged upon as the result of an incorrect touring date on another docent's calendar, Adult Teams Co-Chair Christine Holland asked for an announcement to all docents to say that no matter what one thinks is set up, we each must look at the calendar from Rachael; it is the official calendar. If there's a conflict between what we thought was set for us and what appears on the official calendar, we must take care of it and show up to tour at the time on Rachael's calendar.

ADJOURNMENT:

Joan adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.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