

Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: January 13, 2016

Present: Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Vikki Duncan, Michi Ho, Christine Holland, Teda Pilcher, Karen Brill, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Barbara Boyd, Loree Gold, Rachael Krieps,

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

Board Reports

President, Joan Dewhirst

A motion was carried to postpone approval of the Minutes of Board Meeting of December 9, 2015; the final version will be circulated before the next Council Meeting.

The Book Group meeting was well attended, including Provisional Joanne Singer. The number was up because of the reading selection [Nine Lives] on Puja.

Referring to her email to docents of 12/17/2015, Joan said that several docents had presented concerns about docents interrupting other docents' tours. The distinction was made between a docent inviting additions and docents chiming in uninvited. Mary Ellen Hoffman affirmed that respecting another docent's tour is addressed in the Provisional Class, where Provisionals also learn to say, "I can't answer that right now," as an appropriate response to a challenging question. When one gives a tour, one is on stage before the public: it's a performance with a cadence and demeanor. Interruptions can affect a docent's performance. The Board recommended that Joan meet with the responders to follow up.

Regarding the Capital Campaign, Joan reported that 16 docents (or 25%) have pledged contributions totaling \$200,000. Our goal is not a number of dollars, but 100% participation. Joan was encouraged hearing from one Sustainer, too. Response from the Board is at 50%. Previous pledges by docents amounting to \$180,000 were included in the figure for overall docent response.

Joan drew attention to docent accomplishments. La Muse Editor Lori Mohr's novel, *The Road at My Door*, was reviewed in the Palisades News. Rosemarie Gebhart's print making was recognized in a poem which her print inspired Linda Sarcocho to write. It was fascinating to see how Saccoccio analyzed Rosemarie's painting and put it into words.

Community Speakers Program Co-Director Kathryn Padgett encouraged Joan to think about proposing a presentation for the 2017 National Docent Symposium in Montreal. Presenting more about our evaluations would fit the "Reaching New Heights" Symposium theme.

UCSB's Davidson Library is reopening with a reception from 3:30-5:30 p.m. tonight. Nancy Gifford's 32' installation "Lament" of reconfigured books [to explore the meaning of books in the digital age] is on view.

Heather Brodhead and Joan are communicating about books and docent access.

[See President's Report, attached.]

Vice President, Gail Stichler

Gail reported on the very successful Holiday Party, again acknowledging the hosts Andrea and Ron Gallo, as well as the service award recipients and their presenters, and departing Museum colleagues Heather Broadhead, Jill Finsten, and Barbara Ben-Horin; and our Provisionals introduced by Ralph Wilson and Mary Ellen Hoffman. Gail also thanked The Social Committee [Nicola Gherson, Wendi Hunter, Denise Klassen, Sheila Prendiville, Mike Ramey, Geri Servi, Kathy Eastman, and Mei Chih Ho], who arrived early to set up, greet guests, serve beverages, and clean up; and Denise Klassen for the beautiful flower arrangements.

Plans are set for the February 6th, 2016 bus trip to Long Beach. Thirty-two docents are signed up. The cost is \$55.00. We will have tea and coffee at Claire's upon arrival, then tour the Museum. After lunch at Claire's, docents will visit the CSULB Art Museum with the curator and tour the sculpture garden. Pma Tregenza and John Hillis Sanders graciously have made these arrangements for us.

Forty-four docents are signed up for the New York City trip, but not all have made hotel reservations. Current plans call for a Museum-per-day including the Metropolitan, MoMA, The Whitney, and the Frick. Gail will hold a meeting on February 1st to discuss the many options and activities people are interested in.

Another visit to the Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art is under consideration to see the exhibition Barbizon, Realism, and Expressionism in France. Provisionals will visit on February 10th.

UCSB's Art, Design and Architecture Museum is featuring a show of prints from their permanent collection including Diebenkorn works.

[See Vice President's Report, attached.]

Secretary, Vikki Duncan

Vikki sent an encouragement message to Nicola Gerson for her upcoming surgery. Joan noted that Ellen Lawson is in recovery from a surgery revision.

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

Joan read the Treasurer's Report for Denise, who was unable to attend. The Docent account balances for December were as follows: the checking account beginning balance was \$6,578.63 on November 30th, and the ending balance was \$6,413.90 on December 30th after a check to Denise for the Holiday Party. The savings beginning balance was \$10,779.97 on November 24th, and the ending balance was \$10,781.34 on December 24th, 2015 after interest of \$1.37

[See Treasurer's Report, attached]

Membership, Michi Ho

In December, docents reported 102 public hours, and 3,843 research hours have been reported since June.

Two docents have missed three meetings each due to health. Joan noted that Gabriella Schooley will be returning from fall quarter Inactive status.

Michi mentioned an activity originally thought of for the Puja and Piety Team and which Michi would like to open up to the Council: a dance performance inspired by a painting in the exhibition, and explaining gesture and movement. Michi will discuss this with Joan and Gail, and look into Facilities use.

The preliminary copy of the catalogue for Puja and Piety [opening April 17th] has been received. Rachael will make it available via a link to download. Michi also has received a preliminary copy of the checklist.

[See Membership Chair Report, attached.]

Adult Teams: Christine Holland and Teda Pilcher

Numbers were down in December. A total of 315 visitors followed 41 regularly scheduled tours with an average of 8 visitors per tour. Seven scheduled tours (1 European, 3 Highlights, 2 Techniques, and 1 Ten Talk) had zero visitors.

Current Adult Teams discussions include whether to set up a team to focus on the 75th Anniversary Installation. Research could be done in groups regarding the pieces and their provenance; bringing back

the Portraits or Techniques team, and creating a Contemporary Art team. Larry has written extensively for the 75th Anniversary Catalogue, but the draft is not to be released. Rachael has some images obtained for the Community Speakers Bureau. Offering Ten Talks during the day was mentioned, and Karen Brill said this has been done before and worked well.

Rachael answered a question related to Puja and Piety, saying that there will be talks about the religions, and Richard Hecht [known to docents] will be a speaker.

From March 31st through April 16th, three teams: European, Highlights, and Sculpture will be active before Puja and Piety will open on April 17th.

[See Adult Team Chair Report, attached.]

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara has been reviewing Provisional papers which are due today. Although there are typical mistakes (e.g., focusing on the artist rather than the image), two papers are excellent, and one needs work. Working with Mike and Loree, Barbara has completed an exhaustive list of what needs research. Loree offered a general observation: when there is a new acquisition, it will be on view so prepare a research paper.

Puja and Peity is coming up next, and there are a lot of research papers already in place. Loree noted that the Asian collection is now archived under Previous Exhibition. Loree will review this at the Council Meeting on January 20th to show docents that Antiquities and Asian works still are still there.

Joan commented that the front page will be updated by the end of the day.

[See Research Chair Report, attached.]

Student Teams: Karen Brill

Karen met with Student Team leaders who were concerned that with so much of the Museum closed, student touring conditions would be as crowded as during the Botticelli, Titian, and Beyond show. A new touring plan has been developed: students will tour and make a hands-on project to take home. Half of each student group will begin in the FRC, while the other half will be in the galleries. During their touring time, students will be divided into smaller groups and be lead to docents stationed in galleries: Latin American; Halley/stairs/Kersels; and Ferrer/Rickey/Mural. Education Department staff and/or one of the touring team docents will lead students to each docent. Teaching Artist Jason Summers will work with students on their projects in the Family Resource Center. This will be the pattern for all of January and in March as well. Mary Ellen Hoffman requested confirmation of the plan to share with Provisionals, who will be observing and expected to lead student tours.

In December, there were 11 Museum visits and 281 students--all second and third graders, toured.

Laura de Paoli, student team leader on Puja and Piety, will lead a workshop on student touring the exhibition.

[See Student Teams Chair Report, attached.]

Provisional Chairs: Mary Ellen Hoffman [Ralph Wilson was conducting class.]

Provisionals have given their 3-Minute Talks. Six of the seven did a very good job. One needed a re-do and opted to drop given the time commitment required for good performance and overall personal commitments. Another Provisional withdrew given reluctance to drive in the rain. Mary Ellen, Ralph, and Wendi are confident in the five Provisionals still standing. The Provisional Chairs are looking for someone to be a co-instructor with Wendi next year. Mary Ellen will not continue. Ralph also will not continue next year.

Evaluations: Paul Guido

Paul Guido was traveling in Antarctica and had no report.

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree had no formal report, but see comment under Research.

Nominations: Molora Vadnais

Molora was unable to attend having arrived from India shortly before the meeting. Nominations are coming up and the Committee should meet this month.

Education Department: Rachael Kriepps [Patsy Hicks was unable to attend.]

The Family Resource Center (FRC) will close on February 4th to re-open with Charles Long's Sundae Sculpting School on February 17th through April 1st. The FRC will close at the beginning of April and re-open in early May in time for the 75th Anniversary Celebration on May 15th.

Phillip Yenawine, Visual Thinking Strategies Co-creator will speak at the Council Meeting on February 3rd, and is the speaker at the Educators Event on Friday, January 29th, from 4-5 p.m., with activities and refreshments in the galleries following the talk. He has asked for suggestions of paintings to address, especially any paintings docents find troublesome to tour. Karen will check with Student Team Leaders. New lesson plans for teachers are being developed for April release to go along with Puja and Piety.

Susan Tai and Julie Joyce are slated to be the speakers at the Council Meeting on January 20th, which is also the day of the All-Staff Preview meeting.

Docents can plan on having three lectures on the three religions represented in Puja and Piety, for example, Richard Hecht's talk. Rachael will check with Susan Tai about upcoming lectures, which also will be on the Museum's front page.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: The next Board Meeting will be on February 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Upper Level Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT: Joan adjourned the meeting at 11:07 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