

**Draft Minutes of the  
Docent Council Double Board Meeting  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: June 8, 2016**

Present: Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Ralph Wilson, Vikki Duncan, Mary Joyce Winder, Mei Chih Ho, Christine Holland, Karen Brill, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Hallinan, Barbara Boyd, Paul Guido, Loree Gold, Patsy Hicks, Rachel Kriepps

Absent: Denise Klassen, Teda Pilcher, Wendi Hunter, Laura De Paoli, Molora Vadnais

CALL TO ORDER: Gail Stichler called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

Minutes of the Meeting May 11, 2016 were approved unanimously.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

**Out-going President: Joan Dewhirst**

Joan thanked the council for the gift card to the museum store. She expressed appreciation for the outstanding job the education department did in the planning and execution of the 2016 Docent Graduation & Recognition Ceremony, the board concurred with a grateful spontaneous applause. She went on to state that during the ceremony, the Presenters were amazing, the Awardees were honored, and especially what an excellent job the teachers of the Provisional class had done.

Joan went over the Festive occasions that occurred throughout the year, as well as the challenges throughout the year. She applauded the adaptability and flexibility of the docents over this last year. The docents graciously accepted the challenges that came with the current renovation of the museum, (closures of galleries and cancelled exhibitions) and noted how docents have continue to tour at a high caliber.

Joan acknowledged how much the docent program's success depends on the enthusiasm and dedication of each and every docent. Joan ended her presentation with a gift to the incoming-president, Gail Stichler, a copy of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Robert's rules.

(See President Year-End Report attached)

**In-coming President: Gail Stichler**

**"Why do it if it's not fun",** Gail Stichler.

Gail told the board that Ralph Wilson is actively working on planning new activities for the new Docent calendar year. He is currently working with Nichola Ghersen on an upcoming tour to the Downtown Los Angeles Art District to visit the Hauser Wirth and Schimmel Gallery and the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA on Saturday, June 25th. 28 people have signed up for the trip.

Gail recounted the list of activities that took place from October 5, 2015 to June 3, 2016. She especially thanked Patsy Hicks, Rachael Kriepps and Kelly Almeida for planning the beautiful Graduation and Docent Recognition Ceremony. Gail Stichler was presented docent of the year at the ceremony. Four new provisionals joined the active docent council as well.

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Old Business: Gail reported regarding the sub-committee's discussion on the idea of an Emeritus status. The consensus of the committee was to look at this issue after preference sheets are returned for the coming year to determine if any changes need to be made.

Gail thanked all on the board that offered her support and guidance.

(See attached Vice-President Annual Report for Service Year 2016)

**Out-going Secretary: Vikki Duncan**

Vikki expressed gratitude for serving as the Docent Council Secretary during the Museum's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Vikki acknowledged the spirit of the Docent Council Board with their thoughtful responses to all issues brought to its attention. The board, she stated, worked for the interest of the docents. Vikki appreciated the spirit of mutual cooperation present in these board meetings. She honored Nichola Gherson, who acted as Corresponding Secretary, for all the letters and cards she wrote acknowledging: Docent Council Meeting Speakers, and curators and artists whose museums, exhibitions, and studios docents have visited in their continuing education. Both Nichola and Vikki have sent personal email messages, and handwritten notes and cards of caring and support to docents in recovery from illnesses and bereavement

Vikki introduced the new Secretary, Mary Joyce Winder. Vikki related that new correspondence is needed; a thank you to docent/artist, Kimberly Smith for the personal tour of her show "Catch Me if You Can" at the 525 Gallery in Ojai. Also a thank you should be sent to Nichola Gherson, Christy Close and Loree Gold for coordinating refreshments for the Docent Council Meeting Refreshments during 2015-16.

(See Secretary's Year End Report and Secretary Report attached)

**Treasurer: Denise Klassen (absent)**

Denise Klassen submitted the Year End Treasurer's Report via Email.

Denise submitted reports of current year activity and checking and savings account balances through June 2016. As of 6/30/2016 the savings account balance is \$10,907.46 and the checking account balance is \$3056.59. The total amount in both accounts is \$13,964.05.

The donations for this year total: Amount held in museum accounts is \$400.00. The donations held in checking account totals \$150.00. The total donations for the year is \$550.00

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

Loree Gold brought up the idea that the Docent Council could purchase a square (payment card swipe device) to be attached to a smart phone that could take instantaneous payments for various docent expenses. The idea needed further details and information in order to make an informed decision on whether or not to go forward with its purchase.

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Membership: Mei Chih Ho**

Mei Chih reported as of June 7, 2016 there are 66 Active Docents (including the newly graduated provisional class). Five docents are on a Leave of Absence, 31 docents are sustainers and two docents resigned this year. The total hours docents contributed this year, 2015-2016, equals 13,152. Many on the board told Mei Chih that her presentation at the Docent Graduation & Recognition Ceremony touched them deeply, and she had expressed the essence of what a docent is beautifully. Patsy Hicks stated what a beautiful speaker Mei Chih is and how her talk was at a level of a “prayer”.

(See Membership Chair Report attached)

**Adult Teams: Christine Holland; Teda Pilcher (absent)**

Christine reported the statistics for Adult touring in May and also, gave the Adult Team Year End Report for Service Year June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. During the year the Docents of the SBMA toured a grand total of 4200 museum visitors on all adult tours. In alignment with the current renovation the museum is experiencing there was much juggling of teams and team assignments during the year, as exhibit dates changed, planned exhibits cancelled, or Docents needed to drop off a team. The docents that dropped off a team needed to be replaced by other volunteer docents. In addition, in mid-year we set up a new tour team for the “75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “exhibit. Christine stated that the Docent Council was always willing to “go with the flow” and many were able to step up to volunteer when asked. Christine emphasized appreciation to the members of the Docent Council for their understanding and flexibility.

Christine stated that working with the various team leaders was wonderful. She also stated that because there were only 4 recently graduated Provisionals to cover the summer highlights tour schedule, she asked for volunteers and a team was created. Ralph Wilson mentioned that a new Provisional Graduate, Patty Santiago, has signed up for 17 tours on the summer highlights tour schedule, in addition to also touring the summer arts camp students.

Loree Gold asked for an update of the touring team’s roster to include the docents that volunteered to join a team(s). Christine sent the list out this afternoon, it is attached to these minutes.

Paul Guido mentioned that the evaluations team has on file all the evaluations from 2000 on for each docent that contains a record of what teams and tours the docent gave.

Gail Stichler remarked that Christine had done a heroic job with all of her organization of the Adult teams. Thanks were expressed throughout the group.

(See attached Adult Tour Statistics, May 2016, Adult Team Year End Report for Service Year June 1, 2015—May 31, 2016 and Adult Teams Roster 2015-16)

**Student Teams: Karen Brill**

Karen reported that there were a grand total of 2462 students toured from October 2015 to June 2016. She described how her touring year ended on a high note with a seventh grade class touring Puja and Piety. These magical moments are why we are docents.

(See attached Student Teams Year End Report)

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**Provisional Chairs: Ralph Wilson & Mary Ellen Hoffman (outgoing): Wendi Hunter (absent) and Francis Hallinan (incoming):**

Mary Ellen Hoffman gave the report. She stated that they had interviewed seventeen perspective trainees over the summer of 2015. Thirteen enrolled. Ralph Wilson, Wendi Hunter and Mary Ellen Hoffman taught the year course. In the spring more responsibilities were given to Wendi, as she will be taking charge with Francis Hallinan of the next provisional class. Mary Ellen expressed gratitude to the educational department for all of their assistance on items small and large. The new graduating class of

Four docents are as follows: Erika Budig, David Reichert, Patty Santiago and Joanne Singer. The Provisional team asks that we welcome the new active docents when we see them in the galleries. Congratulations class of 2016.

Ralph Wilson also mentioned that switching the class to Wednesday was a real positive change for the class as the new docents got social time with the other docents before the Docent Council meeting.

(See attached Provisional Chair End-of Year Report)

**Research: Barbara Boyd**

Barbara reported that this year they generated a long list of works of art in the permanent collection that were still in need of research, or badly needing updating. The Provisional class chose the following art works: Erika Budig researched Pierre Bonnard's "Nude against the light", Anne Miller presented research on Kenneth Price's sculpture "Izaak", David Reichert researched Colin Campbell Cooper's "California State Building, San Diego Exposition 1916", Patty Santiago researched Ray Strong's "Requiem for Maynard Dixon", and Joanne Singer present research on Rodrigo Moya's photograph titled "Life Isn't Beautiful".

Barbara conveyed that Jean Smith deserve extra thanks for the five research papers presented and updated for the exhibition, Puja and Piety. Mei Chih Ho also presented a paper on Krishna as Srinathji at Annakuta.

Barbara stated that the Docent Council Website is becoming quite a repository for reliable research that pertains to the works in the permanent collection of the SBMA. Barbara acknowledged the contribution that Rachael Krieps and the Education Department for helping find images, coordinating papers being sent to our curators, and in supporting and helping students to prepare their papers and power point presentations. Thanks also to Mike Ramey and Loree Gold for creating and maintaining the docent website and for posting all our research papers there.

(See attached SBMA Board Report and Research Summary for 2016)

**Evaluations: Paul Guido (out-going): Laura DePaoli (absent in-coming)**

Paul informed the council that with the closure of the Asian Galleries, and the unpredictability of the Student Touring Schedule it was a complicated year for evaluations. 51 evaluations were completed with 8-10 still needing to be done as the Puja and Piety exhibit recently opened, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show will be touring over the summer. The Asian team was set to be evaluated this year, but the closure of the galleries has delayed the evaluations for many years. Some docents could not be

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evaluated on their student tours because they only had 2 or 3 tours during the year, and their evaluators were not available to evaluate.

Only one docent failed their student touring twice near the end of the year. The docent was asked to stop touring for the remainder of the Year. Paul met with the docent, and had the docent shadow Paul's tour. It appeared to Paul, that this did not have any impact on the docent. It was agreed that the

Provisional teachers, Ralph Wilson and Mary Ellen Hoffman would meet privately with Paul to map a course to help the docent with their Student Touring.

Paul wanted to especially thank Christine Holland for keeping him informed. All of the records are now being handed to the incoming Evaluation board member, Laura DePaoli.

(See attached Evaluation Chair-Year End Report)

**Webmaster: Loree Gold**

Loree reported that this year there were 615 posts on the docent website. 46 Art Objects were added this year, including research papers and labels. Loree would like a list of all of Luddington's contributions to the museum collection. The website is current and up to date. Joan Dewhirst asked about having a list of speakers from the past. Rachel Kreips informed the Council that all the speakers have been recorded and it is the I T department that is responsible for posting them on the website.

**Past President/Nominations: Molora Vadnais (absent out-going); Joan Dewhirst (in-coming)**

Joan stated that she is taking it one day at a time. "Staying on as Past President looking forward". Joan also conveyed gratitude to Molora Vadnais for simplifying the nominations process and speeding up its process.

**Department of Education: Director, Patsy Hicks; Docent Program Manager, Rachael Krieps**

Patsy opened her report by enthusiastically thanking the Docent Council for being so willing to put in the exceptional effort all year, in spite of all the complications attached with renovation. Currently it is unknown exactly what the year ahead will bring. Patsy reported that she is convinced that Charles Wylie is the right person as the new Curator of Photography. Patsy conveyed that he "feels right" and he echoes Karen Sinsheimer level of love with humility and kindness. Patsy looks forward to working together with him.

Art Talks lecture series is still a work in progress, it promises to be good. The faculty from UCSB are being considered for speaking. Julie Joyce will be rotating Contemporary art in the Print Space of the Gallery in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition.

Throughout the year the schools continue to be supportive and excited about touring in the Museum. Next September the Junior High and High School students will see the quality education continue to expand with the 75th Anniversary Exhibition.

Patsy stated, "That the docent is the single most example of devotion that I've seen in my life". Patsy also recognized how much Rachael Kreips does with such panache for all of us.

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Mei Chih Ho asked if the Latin American photograph exhibit will ever come back. Patsy said yes. However, there is no particular plan at the present as to when it will return. The future plans for the library, are that it will be spread out to different areas in the museum, depending upon space availability. The library will be for the use of docents, not the general public.

Mei Chih Ho asked if the Education Office was open to recommendations for speakers. Patsy replied that they are open to it and welcome suggestions. There are specific constraints, budget being one of them.

**Old Business:**

Kathryn Padgett & Shirley Waxman sent a report on the Community Speakers Program (CSP). The CSP began giving PowerPoint presentations to the Santa Barbara Community in March 2015. The talks focus on the museum's collection and special exhibitions. They are presented to public and private venues throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Currently, the team is made up of 4 docents, Kathryn Padgett, Shirley Waxman, Mary Eckhart, and Mary Joyce Winder. In 2015 there were 28 presentations with 695 attendees. In 2016 (January to May) there were 16 presentations with a total of 389 attendees. CSP will continue to give talks through the summer.

(See attached Community Speakers Program Report)

Next board meeting is set for September 14, 2016.

**New Business: none**

**Adjournment: Gail Stichler**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Joyce Winder, Secretary