

Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: March 9, 2016

Present: Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Vikki Duncan, Michi Ho, Christine Holland, Teda Pilcher, Paul Guido, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Barbara Boyd, Patsy Hicks, Rachael Krieps

Absent: Karen Brill, Loree Gold, Molora Vadnais

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

Minutes of the Meeting of January 13th were approved, and Minutes of the Meeting of February 10th were approved as corrected.

Board Reports

President, Joan Dewhirst

Jerry Jensen has requested Inactive status through September 2016. The Board approved unanimously. By-Laws on leaves state that Inactive status usually is approved for up to one year. Docents currently on Inactive Status (Monica Babich, Jerry Jensen, and Gabrielle Schooley), as all docents, will receive electronic Active Docent Preference Sheets for 2017.

Joan had received a request to change Focus touring times based on Adult tour team members' experience of crowded and noisy conditions in the 75th Anniversary installation in Ridley Tree Gallery during overlapping public and student tours. As the Adult Tours calendar has been set for the remainder of this service year [through June 30th], and Student Tours are not scheduled in the summer [July-September], a change could be made for service year 2017. Adult Teams Chair Christine Holland motioned that the time of Focus and Special Exhibition tours be changed from noon to 2:00 p.m. on a six-month trial basis, effective October 1, 2016. Paul Guido seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. Joan noted the need to amend the touring time information in the Standing Rules of the Docent Council. Christine Holland motioned that the Standing Rules section on Adult Tours be changed to state that tour times may be changed at the discretion of the Board. The motion was seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the change in the Standing Rules. The new touring times thus may be listed on 2017 Preference Sheets.

The April 20th Docent Council Meeting is cancelled.

[See President's Report, attached.]

Vice President, Gail Stichler

Gail reported on the very successful visit of twenty docents to the Ridley Tree Museum of Art for the private tour of Barbizon, Realism, and Expressionism in France. Gail also thanked Shirley Waxman for making the special carpool parking arrangements.

Thirty-seven people (2/3 of them docents) are signed up for the New York City trip. Gail is holding a meeting on March 14th in Luria Activities Room to discuss the day-by-day itinerary, to provide a summary of the reservations for plays, other possible excursions, and three group meals. Gail noted that there is much support and anticipation building for this trip.

Gail opened discussion of Provisional Luncheons, referring to the 2015 luncheons when spaces were available for no more than 50 docents to attend and to an earlier discussion at the Board Meeting of May 20, 2014, when a change in the timing of luncheons to follow graduation had been discussed but not enacted. Provisional Chair MaryEllen Hoffman indicated that luncheons following graduation would address the questions of some Provisionals about individual rather than collective recognition and this before graduation. Patsy Hicks suggested a luncheon to be attended by all docents following the new graduates' summer service. Board members commented favorably on this suggestion. Patsy will look into such an arrangement.

[See Vice President's Report, attached.]

Secretary, Vikki Duncan

Vikki will prepare a summary report for Winter to present at the April Board Meeting.

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

The Docent account balances for February were as follows: the checking account beginning balance was \$5,274.63 on January 29th, and the ending balance was \$5,729.28 on February 29th, 2016. The only funds paid out were for the Long Beach bus trip. The savings beginning balance was \$10,782.71 on January 22nd, and the ending balance was \$10,784.00 on February 24th, 2016 after interest of \$1.29

[See Treasurer's Report, attached]

Membership, Michi Ho

Michi expressed her deep appreciation for working with the Docent Board and its spirit of compassionate decisions regarding membership. On February 18th, Michi and Gail Stichler, past Membership Chair, had tea with Laura Six and presented her with an honorary 5-year service pin. Laura was moved and most appreciative. Mooneen Mourad also will receive an honorary service pin for 10 years on the Council.

The Indian dance performance (approximately 7 minutes long) inspired by the Kolkata painting ["Durga as the Destroyer of the Titan Mahisha"] in the Puja and Piety exhibition will take place on March 13th immediately following the Council Meeting lecture. The dancer will talk about some of the gestures. Michi has prepared a handout with the source image, and on the meaning of gestures, facial expression, and colors. Some planning details were finalized in ensuing discussion.

[See Membership Chair Report, attached.]

Adult Teams: Christine Holland and Teda Pilcher

Adult Team calendars [tour dates and times v.w.d.] are set up through the end of July.

Touring numbers are a little low. In February, 359 visitors followed 54 regularly scheduled tours with an average of 6.6 visitors per tour. Four scheduled tours had zero visitors. The Community Speakers Program made two presentations, and Kathryn also has made presentations to the Provisionals. One Highlights tour had 35 visitors, and one had 22 visitors after Mary winder swept and invited visitors to join in.

Christine encouraged docents to talk up Puja and Piety, and to attend touring team docent tours to understand this exhibition.

[See Adult Team Chair Report, attached.]

Student Teams: Karen Brill [absent]

Joan Dewhirst read Karen Brill's report from the March issue of La Muse, noting that 15 classroom presentations were made and 416 students toured the Museum in February. Students and docents are thrilled with the 75th Anniversary show. From March 15th-April 18th, students on tour at the Museum will participate in art activities inspired by the exhibition. Student tours will return to full length in April when Puja and Piety will open. Joan also noted a correction: Joani Chancer's work as a consultant to the Education Department in VTS is not upcoming, rather, the Museum already has used materials she developed.

[See full Student Teams Report in La Muse, March 2016.]

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

The five Provisionals are working on transitions in preparation for their 8-Minute Talks next month. After the 8-Minute talks, the students will present a new piece to their classmates during gallery time in the afternoon following class. This will give them experience presenting many pieces they will use in their Highlights tour.

The Provisionals have had difficulty matching schedules with docents to follow on Student Tours. The Provisional Chairs and students can work with Team Leaders to complete the Student Touring requirement. Patsy suggested additional opportunities in following Young at Art; Girls, Inc.; and the High School Event tours. Docents who agree to have a Provisional follow them might be reminded that only the full tour by the Provisional, not any individual piece, needs to be evaluated.

Research: Barbara Boyd

Five new papers (Erika Budig on Pierre Bonnard's "Nude against the Light"; Anne Miller on Kenneth Price's "Izaak"; David Reichert on Colin Campbell Cooper's "California State Building, San Diego Exposition"; and Patty Santiago on Ray Strong's "Requiem for Maynard Dixon") have been posted to the website. Thanks go to Loree Gold and Rachael Krieps for getting materials and posting the papers. Some depth in papers seems to be missing without access to the Fearing Library and without the help of Librarian Heather Brodhead. The Research team is looking for papers on pieces in the 75th Anniversary installation, and for additional papers for Puja and Piety. The touring team is not writing papers. The Puja and Piety catalogue is available in the Docent Office for in-office use only. Reserve books are being pulled by curatorial and placed on carts in the docent office, and an electronic bibliography will be available by March 16th. Additionally, six background papers (e.g., on Jainism) will be uploaded. The web team is working on how to get to images of Asian pieces not currently on display. The 75th Anniversary show catalogue is not available, but the team has an e-version and Rachael has sent it to Mike and Loree to upload to the Docent Website.

[See Research Chair Report, attached.]

Evaluations: Paul Guido

Paul Guido noted that the new evaluation form is working well; all one has to do is circle a response.

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree was unable to attend, but reported in email that she is working on Puja and Piety.

Nominations: Molora Vadnais

Molora was unable to attend but provided a brief report via email: the slate of candidates will appear in the April La Muse and be introduced at the Council Meeting on April 6th.

Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachael Krieps

Patsy has asked the Museum IT team to post videos of lectures related to Puja and Piety, including Greg Hillis on the sand Mandala, Sameer Pandya on Jainism, and Steven Hyler's presentation of Hindu material. Special walk-throughs are planned: John Berger on the photography tribute to Karen Sinsheimer (this walk-through is full), Luis de Soto on his stand-in for Buddha, and Steven Hyler on Hindu material. The tour team is part of the walk-throughs, which will be kept small.

There will be noise during construction, and there might be some disgruntled patrons. Unfortunately, mics for docents and headsets for visitors are not possible. Once the show opens, this will not be as problematic. Puja and Piety has been extended through Augusts 28th.

A show on British Modernism is planned to open at the beginning of September and to run through January 2017 in the same galleries which Puja and Piety will have occupied.

Thayer Gallery will close along with Ludington for the installation of curtains in connection with Luis de Soto's "Paranirvana". Some plant material is planned for the pool for aesthetic layering. Yoga--three different classes on a first-come first-served basis, will be offered from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday mornings. The Asian Pacific Museum in San Francisco, and the Freer and the Sackler Galleries [Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution] have offered successful yoga classes.

Debashish Banerji of the University of Philosophical Research, Los Angeles, will speak at the Council Meeting next week. He has been sending materials to the Puja and Piety team.

The Family Resource Center currently has four drawings Charles Long has lent us to accompany his interactive sculpture. Corresponding to Puja and Piety, the FRC will have activities involving text and paint being developed by Museum artist Kendall Pata (and congratulations to Kendall, who has recently had a baby). The FRC will hold a Ganesha from Merci Eicholz, the Mandala will be back in place, and there will be a sari with "how-to" directions. The FRC will be a good entry point to Puja and Piety for less-sophisticated viewers. However, the FRC will not be open until the 75th Anniversary Community Celebration on May 15th.

For Atelier on 5/14, the Garden Club will install flowers in the Museum with the theme of The Scent of Secret Gardens, and there will be dancers in the Museum.

OLD BUSINESS: Hermes has been cleaned of spider webs.

NEW BUSINESS: A question about the Hindu pantheon and what has happened to Brahma in the focus on Shiva and Vishu was redirected as a good question to ask Debashish Banerji.

ADJOURNMENT: Joan adjourned the meeting at 10:55 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