

Minutes of the
Docent Council "Double" Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: June 7, 2017

Present: Ralph Wilson, Gail Stichler, Mary Ellen Hoffman; Wendi Hunter, Laura DePaoli, Loree Gold, Joan Dewhirst; Christine Holland; Barbara Boyd; Patty Santiago; Irene Stone; Karen Brill; MiChi Ho; Denise Klassen; Mary Winder. Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks, Rachael Kriepps

CALL TO ORDER: Ralph Wilson

Ralph called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

All attendees thanked Gail Stichler for providing breakfast and beverages, and for her warm welcome to the meeting as Outgoing President.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 10, 2017 were approved unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS:

Outgoing President: Gail Stichler

Gail note the Minutes of May's meeting were revised to clarify the subject of sustainers and Leave of Absence topics. The Board discussed the question of whether being a Sustainer for just a year requires a new tour evaluation upon rejoining. The Standing Rules should be clarified re when re-evaluation or re-training would be required. It was suggested that Leave of Absence status be granted for up to one year, for any legitimate reason, and after that, the docent would be required to be a Sustainer. Ralph will write up a description, and the text will later be submitted to the Board for discussion and approval, and subsequent publication to the Docents. Re Docent Molora Vadnais, the Board approved her request for Inactive status for 2017-18.

Gail praised the Docent Recognition event and party, described her enjoyment of the Docent energy and comradery, and noted her optimism for the Council. She thanked all Docents for support and thanked the Education Department, especially Rachael and Patsy. She noted her pleasure in passing the gavel to Ralph as new President.

(See attached Outgoing President's Report.)

Outgoing Vice President and Incoming President: Ralph Wilson

Ralph described his goals as last year's Vice President, including his desire to increase Docent social events to keep involvement in the organization during a time of construction and decreased tours. He thanked all in the Education Department and looks forward to the next year as President.

He welcomed new Board members and especially Mary Ellen as Vice President.

(See attached Incoming President's Report.)

Outgoing Secretary: Mary Winder:

Mary Joyce thanked the board and noted the interesting discussions during the year. She reported on the thankyou letters sent, and the minutes prepared and sent for posting to the web.

Treasurer: Denise Klassen

Denise noted the costs for the year were slightly above the budgeted amount.

She requested Board approval that Denise, Ralph and Mary Ellen may be signatories on the checking account. Irene Stone so moved, Ralph Wilson seconded; the Motion carried unanimously.

She suggested raising the amount of Docent yearly dues, noting the amount has not changed in many years.

At Denise's suggestion, the Board discussed the question of offering "sustainer" status to former docents who retired at a time when the "sustainer" title was not available. The Board agreed that the Membership Chair, Past President, and the Education Department will work together to follow up.

(See attached Treasurer Report.)

Outgoing Membership Chair: Mi Chi Ho

At this time, there are 58 active Docents, and 2 on leave of absence. There are 31 sustaining Docents and 4 Docents resigned in the past year.

Hours for the year reported so far are 11,553, with more hours expected as Docents report their recent hours.

MiChi thanked the Board and the Education Department for her positive year's experience. The Board enthusiastically applauded MiChi on her award of "Docent of the Year."

(See attached Membership Report.)

Outgoing Adult Tour Chair: Christine Holland

Christine noted that in the past service year, Docents toured a total of 3860 visitors in the Museum on all Adult Tours. She expressed thanks to all Docents for their volunteerism and assistance during the past year, and thanked the Education Department for their professionalism, assistance and willingness to help.

The Community Service Team gave 77 presentations on various topics in the last service year, with 1,748 attendees.

(See attached Year End Reports for Adult Tours and for Community Speaker presentations)

Student Team Chair: Karen Brill

The student tours are going very well, and there were enough Docents to meet the touring needs for the year. Between October 2016 and June 2017, the Student Teams took 1671 students on museum tours. The classroom Presentation Team welcomed some new members, and the team members gave power point presentations to 593 students. Thus, during the time period, Docents reached a total of 2264 students

Karen will meet with the Education Department to discuss ideas for next year's touring.

(See attached Student Teams Report.)

Provisional Class Chair: Wendi Hunter

There was no Provisional Class last year.

For next year's class, we have already received 7 applications and expect more. Interviews will be scheduled for July.

Erica Budig will assist Wendi with the class training.

Also, active Docents will be invited to attend gallery training sessions if they wish, to brush-up on skills.

Research Chair: Barbara Boyd

There were two large exhibits last year, primarily taken from the Museum's own collection, which created many opportunities for research.

There was no Provisional Class so no class research papers, but she has asked for Docents' notes created for power point presentations given this year.

She has not received Docent volunteers to do research papers. One Docent plans to volunteer in the summer.

Barbara praised the assistance and research of Loree Gold, and the quality of the education provided to touring Docents.

For the next exhibit of Valeska Soares ("Any Moment Now", September 17-December 31, 2017), there will be research provided from curators and catalogues, from former shows, and the artist herself who will be here in August. Also, there will be a catalogue available.

Patsy Hicks suggested a presentation to Docents in the fall re the various related exhibits in the Santa Barbara area, and a Docent bus trip to related shows in the Los Angeles area. Patsy plans to coordinate with other institutions to make their research available to all. (See attached Research Chair Report.)

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree reported that there have been no troubles with the website over the past year. She thanked Barbara and Mike Ramey.

To date we have 74 new posts and expect 20 more to be posted soon. There were 43 different research items for the YOGOAT exhibit, 30 for the British Modernism exhibit, and several for the Rodin Sculpture exhibit.

She noted the recently located telephone interview from the mid-1980s, with an artist James Rosenquist, and the importance of looking through old files for interesting and irreplaceable information.

Past President/Nominations: Joan Dewhirst

Joan thanked all in attendance, especially those who are the results of her work in creating nominations for next year's Board.

Evaluations Chair: Laura DePaoli

In the last year there were 51 evaluations completed including all student evaluations for the year. One docent resigned due to poor evaluations. For Focus tours, 21 Docents have been evaluated and there are 11 left to evaluate. The YAGOAT exhibit evaluations are ongoing.

Kathryn Padgett and Shirley Waxman initiated an evaluation process for the Community Speaker Presentations.

For Ten Talks, Ricki Morse proposed not having formal evaluations, since all Docents in that area are already evaluated on their regular tours work. The question will be addressed in the fall.

Re evaluations of Docents who are on several teams (Focus, Highlights), to be evaluated in the same time period, it is the process now that the Docent may choose which tour to be evaluated on. These issues will be followed and reviewed as necessary.
(See attached Evaluations Report.)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT:

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks and Rachael Kriepps

Patsy praised the Docents for their excellent work of the past year, as well as their passion and professionalism, and gave heartfelt thanks to all.

She noted two possible additions to next year's exhibition calendar but nothing is certain at this time. One would be a new exhibit of contemporary art, and another possibility is an exhibit of work of Nam June Paik.

Patsy will continue to keep Docents apprised of any impacts due to ongoing Museum renovation work.

For the exhibit of artist Valeska Soares, she will try to create opportunities for education and dialogue between the Docents and the artist.

An issue was raised regarding a teacher or parent who filmed a Docent giving a Student Tour. After discussion, it was agreed that the Education Department will add language to the website and to letters sent out to teachers re student tours, to state that if a person wishes to record a tour through photographs or video, he/she must first obtain permission from the Education Department.

Old Business: Ralph Wilson

None discussed.

New Business: Ralph Wilson

Ralph noted that the Community Speakers Program has grown and has become a significant outreach program. It is not now a designated Docent Tour Team, parallel to others. He notes several differences between regular Museum tours and the presentations of the CSP program.

The Board briefly discussed the question of whether Docents giving CSP presentations should be subject to the same guidelines and offered the same touring credits as Docents giving Museum tours. Ralph will convene a meeting of the Executive Committee to review the situation and bring recommendations to the full Docent Board next year. He will keep the Board and the Education Department apprised of any ideas and conclusions.

ADJOURNMENT: Ralph adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

The next Docent Council Board Meeting will be on September 13, 2017 at 9:30 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,
Christine Holland, Secretary