

Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: May 10, 2017

Present: Gail Stichler, Ralph Wilson, Vikki Duncan (Acting for Mary Winder),
Wendi Hunter, Laura DePaoli, Loree Gold, Joan Dewhirst. Museum Education
Department: Patsy Hicks, Rachael Kriepps

Absent: Mary Winder, Denise Klassen, Michi Ho, Christine Holland, Karen Brill, Barbara Boyd

CALL TO ORDER: Gail Stichler

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

Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 12, 2017 were approved unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS:

President, Gail Stichler

Personnel: Guy Strickland has requested to be a Sustainer for 2017-2018.

One docent has contacted Gail and another one has talked with Joan about requesting Inactive Status for 2017-18. The Board discussed how Inactive Status (or LOA/Leave of Absence) and Sustainer Status are used. A LOA is requested under unusual circumstances and is generally for one year only. Typically, this involves a health or family issue. A Sustainer request is used when the docent no longer wants to tour, but wants to stay connected with the Council. Docents are able to return to be Active Docents after being on Inactive or Sustainer status. When a docent makes a request to return to Active Status, it will be determined if further training or evaluations are needed. In the case of the two current docents, it is recommended that they request Sustainer status since that is the more appropriate category. Gail and Joan will get back to these docents with that information.

There was also a discussion about a current Sustainer who mentioned that she is available for student touring. In this particular case, the docent is in Santa Barbara part of the year and misses touring. There was agreement that this kind of docent could be a valuable resource when looking for support for student touring. Gail will contact this docent to explore the possibility of sharing a student touring spot.

The Docent Recruitment Reception on May 9th was a very successful event. Fourteen individuals attended, and four more emailed regrets but are interested. Those [Board members and Education Department staff] who attended felt very hopeful that we will have a strong group of Provisionals next year.

Future Events:

May 17th—The last Docent Council Meeting this service year

June 2nd—Service Recognition and Awards Ceremony and Reception, 5:30 p.m.;

June 7th—The Double Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Luria; breakfast by Gail.

October 12-15th—The National Docent Symposium in Montreal.

Appreciation: Gail thanked Patsy Hicks for arranging and hosting the May 1st Luncheon on the Lawn recognizing docents, past presidents and sustainers. Gail described the beautiful setting and atmosphere. Gail summed up the shared experience in one word, "*Spectacular.*" Board Members added their equally heartfelt responses, letting Patsy know that the event was "*perfect,*" and "*just wonderful.*"

(See attached President's Report.)

Vice President, Ralph Wilson

The bus trip to the Getty Center on April 19th made \$120. Twenty-five people participated, even though there were three last-minute cancellations. Raph said he is grateful to four Sustainers and their guests who joined the trip.

Ralph expressed great appreciation of the gathering at Patsy Hicks' home, acknowledging Patsy as a gracious and generous hostess. He noted that the opportunity to meet so many past Docent Council Presidents made the afternoon even more delightful.

Patsy relayed an exchange with Past President Jan Able: there was no option to be a Sustainer in the past, and it is desirable. Jan remains in touch with several past Presidents would like to come back as Sustainers. The Board welcomed extending the option. Patsy affirmed the intellectual input and socialization as attractive aspects of Council membership.

(See attached Vice President's Report.)

Secretary, (Vikki Duncan acting for) Mary Winder:

Gail read the Secretary's Report submitted by Mary Winder.

Since the Board Meeting on March 8, 2017, a letter of appreciation was sent to Curator Charles Wylie for his presentation on the 19th Century Photography Exhibition at the Docent Council Meeting of April 5th.

The SBMA Docent Council Approved Board Meeting Minutes of March 2017 were sent to Mike Ramey and posted to the website.

Nicola Gherson is the acting Corresponding Secretary.

(See attached Secretary's Report)

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

No report.

Membership, Mei Chih Ho

No report.

Adult Teams, Christine Holland

Gail read from the Adult Tour Statistics for April 2017, compiled by newly elected Adult Teams Co-Chair Irene Stone: in April there were 287 visitors on 55 tours (5.2 per tour average); one tour had no visitors; and a docent missed one Highlights tour. The Community Speakers Bureau gave 10 presentations in April to 226 attendees.

(See attached Adult Tour Statistics for April 2017.)

Student Teams: Karen Brill

No Report.

Research: Barbara Boyd

Chair Barbara Boyd was unable to attend, but submitted a report received May 13th:

Research is in full swing for the Legacy of Rodin, You are Going on a Trip (pop art), and for a later Pacific Standard Time exhibition to be held in the fall. Please watch for postings on our website. I welcome any and all articles and notes of interest on any of these.

In addition I have asked our Provisionals to send me their notes etc. after their Power Point Presentations to add to our archive.

Patsy answered a research-related question: the Museum does not own any of the Valeska Soares pieces to be included in the exhibition. Patsy referred docents to the Bomb magazine interview of Soares for insight into her work.

(See attached Research Chair Report.)

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree has uploaded the Powerpoints from Michael Duncan's lecture on You Are Going on a Trip, and will tile images in order of the comparisons. She has been working through the artist biographies alphabetically. Six have been uploaded; there are 75 to go. Five or six research papers were already on the website. Loree has been pulling available materials from paper files, too. She also will recycle excess hard copy materials in preparation for the renovation-related move.

Evaluations: Laura DePaoli

We are on track for everything, with some student evaluations to be scheduled, and some Highlights evaluations to be completed in summer. Another item previously mentioned to the Board has been resolved.

Provisional Chair: Wendi Hunter

New Active Erika Budig's research presentation is scheduled for the May 17th Council Meeting. Interviews of the prospective Provisionals will be held in July. The question was raised whether we might email prospective Provisionals (especially those recruitment event attendees identified as potentially strong applicants including one who has waited the past two years without classes) between now and the interviews. We will wait until the application is in before initiating further contact. On a related topic, it was suggested that the bibliography of required readings be made available after the interview. Successful candidates could purchase the required materials directly to begin reading before the class convenes. This would work for the Education Department, too.

Nominations/Past President: Joan Dewhirst

Joan was excited to share an email message from Gina Benesh, SBMA Director of Development regarding the Museum's Capital Campaign: "...You many not know it, but we've surged ahead in our fundraising and now have just shy of \$28 million committed. As for the docents, 37 have stepped forward with individual gifts totaling \$225,000 with all but \$5,000 of that paid."

Joan continued, saying that "the appeal went out to the Docent Council in December 2015 and I am thrilled with this amazing total of donations and the commitment of so many of our docents to the renovation project. My appreciation to all who have invested in what will truly be a remarkable future of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Thank you very much!"

Joan's success in initiating and supporting docents' involvement was acknowledged.

All docents, too, are invited on a hard hat tour of the renovation in progress at the invitation of Gina Benesh. Gina is invited to the Recognition and Awards Ceremony.

(See attached Past President's Report.)

Department Of Education: Patsy Hicks and Rachael Kriepps

Patsy said that invitations to the Service Awards are being sent to all Sustainers and members of the SBMA Board of Trustees. The Education Committee of the Trustees usually is invited, but Larry Feinberg agreed that all the Trustees be invited to share the experience with docents.

A statement and acknowledgement of docents with photographs will appear in the Educational Highlights of the next SBMA Newsletter.

Wendi asked about a docent brochure, referring to the Community Speakers publicity. The previous docent brochure could be updated. Patsy mentioned the different focuses of Museum publicity which docents also receive. She mentioned a possibility as the "Meet"

brochure is being redone. The Museum website, too, would be a place to have information about becoming a docent and to submit requests for information.

Preference Sheets are in progress and will be due on July 1st. The upcoming photography rotation on The Sleep of Reason (the original Goya and Yinka Shonabare's photo of that name and other works focusing on the uncanny) will not have a team nor would a possible Nam June Paik television installation replacing Telephones. Teams will be formed for a survey of photography in the collection and how it has changed (Charlie Wylie); Eik Kahng is shaping a 18th -19th Century portraiture installation with companion photography (e.g., J. M. Cameron) in Preston Morton. Julie Joyce will install a contemporary exhibition featuring local artists in spring of 2018. Valeska Soares will fill the Museum (Preston Morton, Colfax, Ludington, and Davidson Galleries) in fall. The Soares checklist appears more book centered. There is a lot of material on Soares' own website. Her live art work will be performed only at the opening.

Student Touring teams may be adjusted given touring numbers from this year.

Patsy hopes docents have seen the Capital Campaign and Renovation materials which were emailed, as well as the installation in Thayer which can be shared with visitors.

Book cover artist Chip Kid's Creativity Workshop in partnership with UCSB's Arts & Lectures will take place in the auditorium at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events and speakers in conjunction with Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA include Josh Kun [<http://joshkun.com/>], who will speak at the Museum on July 6th with I Hear You, A Border piece; and multimedia artist and musician Terri Allen [<http://www.terriallenartmusic.com/>] represented by LA Louver Gallery [date?].

Atelier in summer will tie in to You Are Going on a Trip.

Patsy is working on Parallel Stories for next year on the concept of brown. She is hoping to secure author Richard Rodriguez; a possible return visit by Geoff Dyer in connection with his new book on Winograd photographs [The Street Philosophy of Garry Winograd]; and Patsy will pursue a recent conversation with another NY writer.

Gail adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

The next Docent Council Board Meeting will be the Double Board Meeting on June 7th.

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, acting for Secretary Mary Joyce Winder