

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: November 8, 2017

Present: Ralph Wilson; Laura DePaoli; Mary Ellen Hoffman; Denise Klassen; Irene Stone; Patty Santiago; Mary Joyce Winder; Christine Holland; Barbara Boyd; Loree Gold.

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks; Rachael Kriepps; Luna Vallejo-Howard

CALL TO ORDER: Ralph Wilson

Ralph called the meeting to order at 9:35. The Minutes of the Docent Board Meeting of September 13, 2017 were approved. (There was no meeting in October.)

BOARD REPORTS:

President: Ralph Wilson

Ralph reported on his experiences and thoughts after attending the National Docent Symposium in Montreal this year, with several other SBMA Docents. He and others agreed that the educational portion was not extremely beneficial, although by meeting Docents from other museums, we learned how well the SBMA Docent program is doing in all areas. He noted that the Symposium experiences have been better in previous years. He recommends that next year's Docent Board discuss and decide whether it is of value to our group to send Docents to these meetings, given the expense and whether the funds could be better employed for other uses.

Ralph noted that Nikki Bruckner is on Leave of Absence due to a serious ankle injury, and Gabriella Schooley has changed to Sustainer status.

(See attached President Report.)

Vice President: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Mary Ellen also commented on the National Docent Symposium.

She noted that there was a successful outing for Docents at the Santa Barbara Historical Society, with a tour by curator Diva Humaya of their exhibit "Sacred Art in the Time of Contact," which was well attended and enjoyed.

The next trip will be to LACMA on November 20th, with docent tours arranged for "18th Century Mexican Art."

The Docent Holiday party is set for December 11th and several Docents have volunteered to assist with set up and clean up.

(See attached Vice President's Report.)

Secretary: Christine Holland

There were no matters to report.

Treasurer: Denise Klassen

Denise provided copies of the Proposed Budget, the new Budget approved by the Board at the last meeting, and the report of Account Balances.

The ending balance in the checking account is \$1,762.47 and in the savings account \$10,272.98.

(See attached Treasurer Reports.)

Membership: Mary Joyce Winder

There are now 50 Active Docents. There are 5 docents on Leave of Absence and 37 Sustainer Docents. There are now 8 Provisional Docents.

The total hours reported from June 2017 to October 2017 are 5501. These hours are not final as many Docents have not reported some or all of their hours.

(See attached Membership Report)

Adult Teams: Irene Stone

Irene sent the finalized tour calendars for the months of January – March to the Education Department for publication in the Museum membership calendar. She also sent these calendars to all Team Leaders so they can start to assign team Docents to tours.

Per a later discussion during the meeting with Patsy Hicks, it appears that the beginning and ending dates of many exhibits are being changed, or are listed as “To Be Determined,” so Irene may have to go back and revise the dates and tour assignments.

In September there were 244 tours averaging 4.2 visitors per tour. In October there were 289 visitors averaging 5.4 visitors per tour. Attendance was heavier for the Valeska Soares exhibit, and without that exhibit, there were 116 visitors averaging 2.8 visitors per tour.

Irene noted, and many agreed, that there is probably a problem of maintaining Docent morale, due to the low numbers of visitors in the museum and the ongoing disruptions and uncertainties caused by the renovation work. The Museum front steps and entrance will be closed starting in January. This will put pressure on visitors to engage with the Museum. There was a discussion about ideas and plans for helping people to connect with the Museum during the renovation times.

(See attached Adult Tours Report, and “Adult Tour Statistics” for October 2017)

Student Tours: Ralph Wilson for Karen Brill

There was a walk-through event for Docents to assist with touring of the Valeska Soares exhibit, which was well attended and much appreciated.

Student tours are going well, with interactive looking and good discussions.

In September, 2 tours were given for a total of 190 high school students. In October, 6 tours were given for grades 2-8 for a total of 108 students, and 2 tours were given for a total of 100 high school students.

(See attached Student Teams Report)

Provisional Chair: Ralph Wilson for Wendi Hunter

The Provisional Class now numbers 8 students and they are committed and enthusiastic. They are picking out their research paper pieces this afternoon. Rachael and Patsy have taught VTS and they are starting to practice in the galleries. Their 3-minute talks start in January. They will visit the antiquities at the Getty Museum next week.

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara thanked Patty Santiago for stepping up to assist her with the duties of Research Chair.

The Provisional students have requested to begin their research papers early, so Barbara put together a list of objects which need research and will present to the class today.

Barbara attended Art Talks lectures re the Museum's antiquities, by Jens Daehner of the Getty Museum. Barbara noted the excellence of these lectures, and it is suggested that we ask him to present lecture(s) at a Docent Council Meeting.

Barbara noted there is so much new information and research about the antiquities, and the current research should be updated. She will post her own notes from the lectures on the Docent website.

Evaluations: Laura DePaoli

There are relatively few evaluations due this year, and all are scheduled and proceeding well.

(see attached Evaluations Report).

Web Master: Loree Gold

Loree noted that there were some problems with the Docent Website "crashing" which was reported to her by several Docents, and she and Mike Ramey were able to fix the problem. She encourages Docents to contact her if they encounter any problems.

A new "tag" for a research topic was added to go along with Colin Gardner's lecture re "Words and Text in Art."

Upcoming exhibitions have been posted. We need more research on exhibit items. The portraits in the upcoming "Portraits" exhibit will be part of the "needed research" list given to the Provisionals.

Mike Ramey reminds the Secretary to send copies of the Board Minutes for posting on the Docent website.

Past President/Nominations

No report. Gail will convene the nominations committee in January 2018.

Museum Report: Patsy Hicks

Patsy noted that the calendar for upcoming exhibits is mostly finalized, but dates are still uncertain. "Japanese Screens" has moved from Spring 2018 to Autumn 2018. Curator Charlie Wylie is planning an exhibit to include, or perhaps feature, Nam June Paik.

These changes, and lack of firm schedules, affect the teachers' planning for when they wish to schedule their students for a Museum visit. The Education Department will send reminders and promotional materials to the teachers.

Rachael reported that the Education Department will be communicating by Twitter.

Speakers for upcoming Docent meetings will include Curators Charlie Wylie and Eik Kahn. Some other possibilities are two writers, and an historian. Patsy continues to work on organizing.

Patsy reported that the Museum has purchased the Valeska Soares work "Vaga Luna."

Adjournment: Ralph Wilson

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

The next Docent Council Board Meeting will be December 13, 2017.

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, Docent Council Secretary