

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: November 14, 2018

Present: Mary Ellen Hoffman, Mary Joyce Winder, David Reichert, Patty Santiago, Helene Strobel, Irene Stone, Karen Brill, Erika Budig, Vikki Duncan, Barbara Boyd, Loree Gold, Joan Dewhirst, Ralph Wilson  
Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks  
Absent: Rachael Kriepps

**CALL TO ORDER: Mary Ellen Hoffman**

Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM. The Minutes of the Docent Board Meeting of October 10, 2018 were approved.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

President: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Mary Ellen thanked the Education Department for getting the new Directory out. She commented that a new Standing Rule will define what each Board position is responsible for supplying to the Webmaster, for addition to the Docent Council Web site. (See attached President's Report)

Vice President: Mary Joyce Winder

Commented on a successful Paramount Studios tour with 44 docents. Invitations to Holiday Party will mail this week (see attached) (See attached Vice President Report.)

Secretary: David Reichert

There were no matters to report.

Treasurer: Patty Santiago

Patty observed that we have three Sustaining Docents who have not yet paid their dues. Rachael included them in the directory. The ending balance in the checking account is \$6,241.33 and the ending balance in the savings account is \$10,288.63. Total cash on hand is \$16,619.96. (See attached Treasurer's Report.)

Membership: Helene Strobel

There are 58 active docents, 2 docents on Leave of Absence, and 34 sustaining docents.

The total hours reported through October 2018 are 4658 consisting of 338 Public Touring hours and 4320 research hours.

Discussion was had as to whether a docent who has missed three meetings should be notified or placed on LOA status. A letter will be sent, probably by Mary Ellen, after Thanksgiving. This will ask her whether she wants to go LOA or return to the regular schedule. (See attached Membership Report)

Adult Teams: Irene Stone

There was a small increase in average visitors per tour with the opening of "Let it Snow!" (See attached Adult Tours Report, and "Adult Tour Statistics" for March 2018.)

Student Teams: Karen Brill

In October tours were held for second- through ninth-graders, totaling 146 students. No requests have yet been received for high-school tours.

Following the Docent Council meeting on February 6, a forum will be held to discuss high-school touring.

(See attached Student Teams Report)

Provisional Chairs: Erika Budig and Vikki Duncan

A meeting was held on October 25 in Ridley-Tree: Present were Erika, Vikki, Mary Ellen, Patsy and Rachael.

The provisional training program may change a bit to meet needs including those of the Education Department and the Museum as a whole, and also to increase appeal to prospective docents.

The chairs are looking at docent training programs at other museums including the J. Paul Getty in Los Angeles.

Erika requested suggestions and comments, particularly with respect to reading materials. E-mail to both Erika and Vikki.

(See attached Provisional Chair Report)

Research: Barbara Boyd

(See attached Research Report)

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Thanks to Mike Ramey for putting up extensive material on the "Paths of Gold" exhibition.

Information is available on the website for the upcoming Manuel Alvarez Bravo exhibition.

A decision was made not to change the password for the website.

The website is not accessible from the computer in the docent office. Vikki observed that she has had difficulty accessing the site using the Firefox or Chrome browsers. Patsy thinks this may be a technical issue with the Museum computer system.

Mary Ellen asked Loree how content should be submitted. Loree said to e-mail both to her and to Mike Ramey. Approved minutes should go by PDF.

(See attached Web Master Report and Docent Website Information Flow)

Evaluations: Joan Dewhirst

Mary Joyce asked if a tour could be given only to the evaluator. Brief discussion was had.

(See attached Evaluations Chair Report and Mary Joyce's thoughts on the evaluation process)

Past President/ Nominations – Gail Stichler

Nothing to report

Museum Report: Patsy Hicks

Described a dance performance that will take place in conjunction with the spring sculpture exhibition.

A speaker from the Getty Museum will be delivering a lecture in conjunction with the upcoming Manuel Alvarez Bravo exhibition.

A writer will be in residence in January.

City College students are coming to the Museum on Thursdays. Patsy is also working with Museum Studies students from UCSB.

The Santa Barbara Junior High School poetry reading will again take place in February. Patsy called for docent help.

Julie Joyce's contemporary show is not yet set, but it will include local artists.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Bylaws revision. See attached Review Draft #5 (11/7/2018)

Mary Ellen reminded the board that Ralph "did the heavy lifting".

She decided to take the document from Page 1 and work through page by page.

Sections commented upon are those for which significant discussion was held.

### **§3.1 Membership Categories**

Patsy raised the question of whether the four-year commitment is absolute. Mary Ellen spoke of "purposeful vagueness" (a legal term) in the drafting. Erika suggested "up to" one year of training and "up to" a four-year commitment.

Active Docents, it was decided, are "Active" or "Senior Active." The word "New" was deleted from "New Actives."

The length of commitment may go to being a Standing Rule. The Bylaws would provide purposeful vagueness with "up to" four years. A Standing Rule would define the actual requirement.

Ralph will eliminate four-year references throughout.

### **§3.4 Responsibilities of New Actives**

Strike the word "New"

Discussion was had about allowing flexibility in assigning tours, vis-à-vis student versus adult tours. Patsy observed that the SBCC cohort might cover more student touring, freeing up docents. Also, the new "Art with a Side" might increase docent willingness to tour kids—shorter and more focused tours.

Ralph thinks "four years" should stay in as the commitment duration. The Museum and Docent Council are facing enough unknowns. Discussion was had and a straw vote was taken. The four-year commitment will stand. The §3.1 discussion with regard to the requirement is overruled.

### **§3.6 Leave of Absence Docent Status**

§3.6.5 Mary Joyce raised the issue of a Board member going to LOA status. How would that person be replaced? Ralph referred to §8.1.1.2, answering the question.

Otherwise there was consensus in this area; discussion had been had in the preceding weeks via e-mail.

### **§7.3 Executive Committee**

Patsy put forth that the appropriate member of the Education Department be included on the Executive Committee.

### **§8.1.1 Term of Office**

Define term as "one-year"

### **§8.7 Nominations Chair**

Discussion was had of having an Education Department person on the Nominating Committee. Consensus was reached on having the Department as informal advisors.

§8.9.3 Consensus was reached to change the time for Provisional class research presentations from “fall” to “year” in the interest of flexibility.

Mary Joyce moved that the Bylaws be passed, with Ralph to make the agreed-upon amendments. Joan seconded and the Bylaws passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business

**ADJOURNMENT: Mary Ellen Hoffman**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

The next Docent Council Board Meeting will be December 12, 2018.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

David Reichert, Docent Council Secretary