

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: September 12, 2018

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 10:07. (The meeting had been rescheduled for 10:00 to allow for the April Street talk.) The Minutes of the Double Board Meeting of June 13, 2018 were approved.

BOARD REPORTS:

President: Mary Ellen Hoffman

A draft of the revised Bylaws is expected to be ready for Board review in October.

Mary Ellen noted the passing of former docent Laura Six. Gail Stichler was kind enough to put out a notice of her passing. Vikki Duncan is working on gathering photos of Laura (e.g. touring) for her memorial. The date of the service has not been set; also it is not yet known how private or public the memorial will be.

Mary Ellen got some pushback for scheduling the first full Council meeting on Yom Kippur (September 19). She decided not to count non-attendance at that meeting as an absence.

There are two areas for the Board to focus on, in the coming year:

- 1) Thinking of ways to recruit Provisional Docents for the Class of 2020. Be creative!
- 2) Continuing presence at the National Docent Symposium. The next one will be sometime in 2019 at the Freer/Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C.

Refreshments: Board will bring for the first Council meeting.

(See attached President's Report.)

Vice President: Mary Joyce Winder

Mary Joyce compared the role of Vice President to that of a concierge—making arrangements for what the Council membership is interested in doing.

She went over her report on summer events. (See attached Vice President's Report.)

Secretary: David Reichert

There were no matters to report. I commented on having worked on the Opera Santa Barbara history book over the summer, and consequently not being around the Museum.

Treasurer: Patty Santiago

We are in good shape. The 2017-2018 fiscal year closed with \$799.69 in the checking account and \$10,283.56 in savings. The Year to Date budget came out only \$173.97 over.

As of August 31, 2018 the checking balance stood at \$3599.46. This reflects most docent dues payments having been deposited in July. \$70.00 in dues was deposited in August. One Active Docent remains outstanding, as do 10 Sustaining Docents. Currently the savings account is at \$10,286.14.

Ralph Wilson moved to approve the budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. I seconded and the budget was approved. (See attached Treasurer's Report.)

Membership: Helene Strobel

There are 58 Active Docents, 2 Docents on Leave of Absence, and 34 Sustaining Docents.

Currently Tricia Goss and Julie Allen are on Leave of Absence. Returning to Active status from LOA are Scarlett el-Khazen and Molora Vadnais. Virginia Randolph has gone to Sustaining status.

For June, July and August docents reported a total of 1166 hours. 128 of these hours were Public with the balance being Research.

Discussion was had about the need to record hours. Helene will put an article about the uses for this information, in La Muse.

Helene observed that this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Docent Council. She proposed an ad hoc committee to plan commemorative events. The notion was raised, with some degree of jest involved, of my writing a history of the Council. With love in my heart, I demurred.

The Board informally approved (no motion needed) the award of a 5-year pin to Christy Close and a 15-year pin to Mary Eckhart. These will be presented at the upcoming Council meeting if the recipients attend.

(See attached Membership Report.)

Adult Teams: Irene Stone

Irene went over her detailed report.

Irene is going to put in La Muse procedures for trading tours. Confusion has sometimes arisen with trades.

(See attached Adult Tours Report, and "Adult Tour Statistics" for May-August 2018.)

Student Tours: Karen Brill

Karen met with all student team leaders in the past week. It was discussed that Docents on student teams, if they will not be available for a tour, have to arrange for a substitute. This is versus relying on the team leader to find a sub, or simply letting the other team members pick up the slack with larger groups.

Our New Active Docents, given that their training time was reduced by the disasters, need to observe student tours. However, they need to know not to interrupt the touring Docents.

In a related vein discussion was had of Active Docents going on tours such as those for special exhibitions. Although not mandatory, it is courteous to inform the touring Docent in advance. The role of a Docent taking a tour is to be an observer.

Patsy spoke of the need for any independent/private tours to be cleared in advance with Rachael. The example given was of a university class group showing up, and the professor lecturing in place of a Docent. Pre-clearance is needed to avoid conflict with scheduled tours and other Museum events such as teacher trainings.

Patsy met with high school teachers. The possibility of self-guided tours was discussed along with that of training teachers to give tours.

In early November, Karen will organize a High School Touring forum.

(See attached Student Teams Report.)

Provisional Chairs: Erika Budig and Vikki Duncan

This is a "dark" year without an incoming Provisional class. Erika and Vikki will focus on curricular revision.

Discussion was had about outreach. Ideas were floated about presentations at Newcomers meetings, cable-TV spots (Natural History Museum does this), and outreach to professional and fraternal organizations and alumni associations.

Patsy floated the notion of offering “one and done” volunteer engagements at the Museum, for instance around the family Day of the Dead celebration. Such may lead to the cultivation of potential future Provisional Docents.

(See attached Provisional Chair Report.)

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara and Loree are discussing Salons for Docents to gather, at the Museum, to discuss a certain art object. The idea is for everyone to gather information, ideas and impressions from each other, which could be recorded for further use by Docents.

(See attached Research Report.)

Evaluations: Joan Dewhirst

Joan and Laura DePaoli met and discussed how to remove the dread of evaluations, and recasting them as growth opportunities.

The primary job of an evaluator is to make sure everything a Docent says on tour is correct.

Erika proposed getting feedback from evaluations (kept anonymous) and building into Provisional training.

Ralph said that Joan should tell evaluators not to be afraid to say something negative. Some Docents over the years have gotten passes (without much comment) and wound up later leaving the Council. Constructive criticism is needed where appropriate.

(See attached Evaluations Chair Report.)

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Absent

Past President/ Nominations: Ralph Wilson

A draft re-writing of the Bylaws is just about complete.

Ralph raised an item of old business, that being term limits for Board officers. This would go into the Bylaws.

The proposed motion is for a 3-year limit on each Board position. Docents were beginning to spend many years in Board spots, restricting “new blood.” An officer who has served over half a term would be considered to have served a full term.

The proposed motion makes an exception for Webmaster, as such requires technical skills not generally held. By definition, President, Vice-President and Past President are one-year positions.

Ralph made the motion to approve term limits (see attached text) and opened the floor for comments.

Erika proposed an exemption for the Provisional Chairs, on the grounds of promoting continuity in the training. Discussion was had. Ralph argued against such an exemption so as to avoid “rote” teaching.

Further discussion was had as to whether Webmaster should be a Board position. By comparison, Editor of La Muse is not.

Joan seconded the motion. It passed with Irene and Vikki abstaining.

There was no further Old Business and no New Business.

Museum Report: Patsy Hicks

A pilot program called Art with a Side is launching. The Sides referred to are writing in the galleries, and art making.

The Wednesday teams will be running Art with a Side. Docents will give half-hour tours and Museum teaching artists will lead the art making. The schedule will run as follows:

Art making 11:00 to 11:30; tour 11:30-12:00

Tour 12:00-12:30, art making 12:30-1:00

Luna Vallejo-Howard and Patsy will lead the writing.

A City College class will be in residence every Thursday evening. Patsy will be with them. This is another pilot program. The college students may help the youngest elementary students learn to look at art.

The Park entrance will feature changing contemporary installations. Patsy described those known as of this time.

Art Matters (formerly Art Talks) has changed from the morning to a 4:00-6:00 time slot. This is designed to attract undergraduate and graduate students. The lectures will be on niche subject areas (“choose your own adventure”).

On September 27 at 5:30 or 6:00 composer Christopher Rountree will be here, leading music based on the Nam June Paik installation. The music will be performed in the galleries.

Patsy discussed an “increased presence of poetry” in the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT: Mary Ellen Hoffman

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

The next Docent Council Board Meeting will be: October 10, 2018 at 9:30 A.M.

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