

Minutes of the  
Docent Council Board Meeting  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: April 10, 2019

**Present:** Mary Ellen Hoffman, Mary Joyce Winder, Vikki Duncan, Patty Santiago, Helene Strobel, Irene Stone, Karen Brill, Barbara Boyd, Loree Gold, Joan Dewhirst, Ralph Wilson.  
Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks, Rachael Krieps

**Absent:** David Reichert, Erika Budig

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Ellen Hoffman called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 10, 2019 were approved unanimously.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

President, Mary Ellen Hoffman

Mary Ellen thanked Mary Joyce Winder and Ralph Wilson, who ran the meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
There is no written President's Report for the month.

Board Reports will be made out of their usual order to accommodate docent touring and staff meeting schedules.

Secretary, [Vikki Duncan, recording for] David Reichert. No written report.

Treasurer, Patty Santiago

After deposits, refunds, and bus trip expenses, checking is \$1,700 on the plus side. See the Secretary's Report for details.

President Mary Ellen Hoffman suggested that the Council might assist with the expense of docent recruitment ads and the reception. Patsy Hicks indicated that this would be welcome.

Membership, Helene Strobel

There are 56 active docents, three docents on leave-of-absence, and 36 sustaining.  
Reported hours year-to-date are 916 public and 10,749 research for 11,565 total hours.

Nine pins will be given at the Service Awards on May 17 (see details in the Membership Report). Patsy Hicks will speak for one recipient who had requested Patsy as her presenter.

Adult Tours, Irene Stone

There was a huge drop in the number of visitors in March, averaging 3.6 per tour compared to 5.9, 5.9, and 5.6 for February, January, and December, respectively. Excluding the two Ten Talks, eight of eleven tours scheduled March 3-10 had zero attendees. Discussion brought out that the dates corresponded to rain-related evacuation days.

"Brought to Light: Sculptures That Tell Stories" opened on March 3, with the first tour on March 15. Patsy Hicks noted that Museum attendance has been very low, but we can look ahead to the Van Gogh show in 2020.

The summer Contemporary Art Team will meet in a workshop with artist Chris Kallmyer to train for the interactive presentation of the exhibition. Many thanks to Patsy Hicks for facilitating this opportunity.

Minutes of the  
Docent Council Board Meeting  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: April 10, 2019

The photography show “Salt and Silver”—to open September 6, will be on the summer calendar and the touring team option will be on the Preference Sheets. Also see the Adult Tours Report, attached.

Student Teams, Karen Brill

There were four tours and two different tours arranged by Patsy, in all spanning 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades with 121 students toured. Nine tours are scheduled in April.

The Student Teams Leader had called for a meeting to discuss observations from New Active student touring, in which VTS was not being used. Discussion clarified that the tours were only the second student tours the docents had lead, the audience was high school and junior high school students in large groups (41 total), and that last-minute instructor requests influenced docent touring. Suggestions emerged: assigning mentors if needed, clarifying that VTS can be used along with other thinking strategies, continuing education planning, and a review of the Student Touring Evaluation form. Some questions on the form (e.g. transitions, theme) derive from the Adult Touring Evaluation format, and others (e.g. use of student names), do not always fit student touring conditions. Patsy supported reviewing the Student Touring evaluation format, especially in view of the trend toward larger groups and the importance of listening to and remembering what the students have said as key to their touring experience.

Provisional Co-Chair, Vikki Duncan

Julie Allen has generously donated those student touring materials and aids she has found most useful in her years of student touring. The materials are currently in the Docent Office. Vikki sent a thank-you message to Julie.

Research Chair, Barbara Boyd

New research has been done by two docents on the sculpture Les Orientales. The paper with full bibliography will be posted to the docent website as a research paper, and upon completion including bibliography, supplemental information from the second paper can be posted under comments. Having two papers voluntarily researched on the same object points to the need to discuss proposed topics with the Research Chair. Barbara will identify a research paper on another artwork which may be used as a format or general outline that all docents can refer to in writing research papers.

Webmaster, Loree Gold

Loree will post the new research paper later today.

Evaluations Chair, Joan Dewhirst

Docents not currently touring students but who had been trainers were called upon to have enough evaluators this year.

All the New Actives evaluated thus far have passed. Most expressed some concern about student touring. New Actives on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 3<sup>th</sup> Tuesday team will be evaluated on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Five Docent's Choice evaluations are done. Sculptures That Tell Stories evaluations are in progress. Eleven Senior Active Student Touring evaluations have been completed. The Community Speakers Program has two new link up “know-before-you-go” presentations by Kathryn Padgett and Molora Vadnais.

Minutes of the  
Docent Council Board Meeting  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: April 10, 2019

Nominations Chair, Ralph Wilson

Nominations Committee,  
Board Report, April 10, 2019

In the Docent Council meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup> the new Docent Council Board was elected by unanimous vote of the docents present. The officers and chairpersons for the 2019-2020 service year are as follows:

President	Mary Joyce Winder
Vice President	Patty Santiago
Secretary	David Reichert
Treasurer	Jeff Vitucci
Membership Chair	Pattie Firestone
Adult Teams Co-Chairs	Christine Holland Vikki Duncan
Student Teams Chair	Joanne Singer
Provisional Chair	Ralph Wilson
Research Chair	Sarajum Quazi
Evaluations Chair	Joan Dewhirst
Webmaster	Gail Stichler
Past President and Nominations Chair	Mary Ellen Hoffman

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Wilson  
Chair, Nominations Committee

Old Business, Provisional Recruitment and Training

President Mary Ellen Hoffman confirmed a May 8 date for the first of two Provisional Docent recruitment receptions. We will have a Provisional Class, and recruitment is important. Much is under discussion about how the class will be taught (e.g., splitting into student teams training and adult teams training). Continued docent training to be able to give up to a 45 minute tour was affirmed as giving desired flexibility.

Education Department, Patsy Hicks and Rachael Krieps

Regarding any changes in tour formats, Patsy said that it's a process of seeking feedback, remaining flexible, and reacting to need and demand. In discussion the following were noted:

A fewer student tours have been scheduled this year. Free bus transportation is still offered. Teachers get to choose the touring option they want, but it has been difficult to get

Minutes of the  
Docent Council Board Meeting  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: April 10, 2019

information on exhibitions from the Museum to teachers in time for them to plan for field trips—and for educator workshops, in which attendance also has been down.

The Art With a Side pilot program of a gallery tour plus art-making has been more popular with the teachers of younger students. The tours are shorter and focused on fewer objects because of committing time to art making. Student Teams Chair Karen Brill noted the importance of reading the kids and responding to them in the shorter tour format. She also asked about the feasibility of a 1.25 hour tour block to give more time both in the galleries and in art-making. There also are more large tour requests: 300 students in 3 days for the art-making and gallery tour visits. Rachael Krieps observed that it may make sense to give another regular student touring day to the successful pilot approach.

Patsy also facilitates writing activities in the galleries as the “side” to a gallery tour as another way to draw other groups of students to the Museum. At the high school level, she is working with San Marcos High School AP instructor Melanie Jacobson on small groups working on a project together in the galleries.

She also is working with other institutions and graduate students using art and working person-to-person and in groups to develop critical thinking skills and to draw on the best out of this to offer at the Museum. This includes work with Bruce Robertson (UCSB) and Elyse Gonzales (SBCC) to develop museum studies for credit.

Patsy said that we want to offer the best tools--all kinds of tools, to make student visits work, and that Provisionals need practice, modeling of a range of critical thinking skills and understanding the philosophy behind them.

After lengthy discussion of variables, Mary Ellen Hoffman summarized, affirming that Provisionals will continue to be trained to lead student and adult tours with a broad menu of options connecting people to art and that’s going to be great.

#### Education Department

Elena Hancock has been hired to fill the position previously held by Luna Vallejo-Howard. Elena will be part-time (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) through June, then on board full time. She has a background in cultural anthropology, is bi-lingual (English and Spanish), and has been involved in the LatinX Community.

Museum senior staff has been in Sexual Harassment training with a lawyer. Sexual harassment and cultural diversity training may be extended to volunteers and docents. Training on the role of Security in the Museum also is important. A presentation by new Co-Head of Security Huber Guardarrama, Jr., at a Docent Council Meeting in the fall was suggested and supported.

Regarding Provisional recruitment, Rachael has placed an approved ad in The Independent announcing the May 8 event. Forty-five people are on the prospect list and invited to the event. Closing the deal depends on the quality of the tours they follow at the event, and follow-up after the event for their staying the course. Prospective Provisionals can be invited by docents to community events (e.g., Ted Nash’s return visit in summer).

Minutes of the  
Docent Council Board Meeting  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Date: April 10, 2019

Mary Ellen Hoffman suggested ads in NoozHawk and Ed Hat, too. Helene Strobel circulated a sample advertisement based on the ad successful in capturing her interest in the Docent Council and based on her experience as a corporate art director.

Old Business, continued

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the registration deadline for the National Docent Symposium in Washington, D.C., in October 2019. Per Docent Council practice, incoming President Mary Joyce Winder and incoming Vice President Patty Santiago will attend as delegates with financial support. Additional Board Members have expressed interest in attending. Mary Ellen Hoffman will email both the standing and incoming board membership to say that the remaining two delegate slots will be offered on a lottery basis to two Board Members who wish to go and who will pay their own way.

New Business No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.