

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

Family Resource Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Teda Pilcher, President; Pattie Firestone, Vice-President; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; Andrew Baker, Student Team Co-Chair; Susan Lowe, Adult Teams Co-Chair; Denise Klassen, Adult Teams Co-Chair; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Irene Stone, Evaluations Co-Chair; Barbara Ross, Research Chair; Shirley Waxman, Nominations Chair; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster; Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

Not In Attendance: Tommie Rae Barnett, Treasurer; Mary Ellen Alden, Membership; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair

1. **Call to order:** President Teda Pilcher called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the March 11th, 2024 meeting was made Christine and seconded by Susan. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Board Reports:**
President's Report –Teda Pilcher
 - Teda made a motion to create a Lifetime Achievement Award. Christine moved to discuss what the specifics would be. The Board discussed that this award should not be given every year, but only on rare occasions, and as appropriate. The Nominations Chair with a committee of 2 other Board members should nominate the candidate and the recipient should receive consensus of the Nomination team. The candidate for this award should have been actively involved in the Docent Council for over 30 years, and the candidate should have made exceptional contributions to the Docent Council. The Board decided as a group this year to call the award the Lifetime Achievement Award and add the award recipient to the Docent Directory. Christine moved that based on the Board's discussion a Lifetime Achievement Award be presented to Ricki Morse for her 34 years of service and continued contributions to the Docent Council as an active docent. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The Board decided to present Ricki with beautiful flowers to honor her in lieu of presenting her with a pin or plaque, and we will read her Bio. We will make sure she is able to attend and that her family will also be in attendance.
Vice-President's Report – Pattie Firestone
 - **Meet & Greet - Provisionals and All Active Docents**
The Meet & Greets seemed to be a great success. Pattie thanked everyone for the experiences they created to integrate the Provisionals and Actives into a team of Docents

working together. Pattie expressed that team spirit is key to the success of our SBMA Docent Council. She extended a special thank you to Susan Lowe and Irene Stone who helped organize the events.

-Here is the breakdown of Active Docents and Provisionals at each event:

*Mimi Baer/Judy Dewey	6 Docents including 1 Provisional
*Christine Holland/Merle Guadagnini	8 Docents including 3 Provisionals
*Wendi Hunter/Cindy Anderson	10 Docents including 3 Provisionals
*Irene Stone/Loree Gold	9 Docents including 3 Provisionals
*Mike Sandler/Teda Pilcher	6 Docents including 1 Provisional
*Shirley Waxman/Elizabeth Russell	12 Docents including 3 Provisionals
*Laura DePaoli/Denise Klassen	12 Docents including 4 Provisionals
Total: 63 Docents including 18 Provisionals	

- DC Docent Trip April 14 – 19

Ten Docents and two spouses plan to enjoy as many art museums as they can in 4 days in Washington, DC. We'll have photos and stories to tell at the May Board meeting.

Secretary's Report - Cindy Anderson

- Cindy sent a sympathy card to Todd Fox (Helene Strobel's partner) and to Sara Bangser upon the death of her husband.

Treasurer's Report – (Tommie Rae Barnett absent)

- Our current savings account has \$10,402.10. The checking account balance is \$6,684.89.

Membership Report: Mary Ellen Alden (absent)

- LOA updates:
 - Kristin Frascella has asked for a leave of absence for health reasons. Christine made a motion to approve the leave and Pattie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Teda and Mary Ellen had spoken prior to the meeting about Tommie Rae's health situation and how it has impacted her ability to tour and attend meetings. She has had serious health issues necessitating her absence from Docent Council activities. She has recently communicated her desire to take a leave and is in the process of trying to figure out how long it might be. She believes she will need to be out for an additional 3 months or so. She will get back to us with that information. Teda suggested we let her take a Leave of Absence after the financials are completed at the end of this fiscal year. It would be easier to have Tommie Rae close the books than to expect someone else who doesn't know the process try to do it at this time. She is also a few hours short on touring students and will have missed more than 4 meetings. She is still contributing to the Docent Council in her role as Treasurer. Mary Ellen counseled we give her a Leave of Absence, but to table it until the June Meeting.
- As the year-end approaches, Mary Ellen is encouraging all docents to record touring hours, and double check what they have already provided.
- Mary Ellen has been in touch with her successor, Merle, and they will coordinate with Pattie to get together in May to explain the Membership duties and computer files.

Adult Teams: Susan Lowe

- March brought many special requests and museum events that required extra docent tours, and the docents stepped up!
- Due to the volume of special requests and the scheduled tour changes required in order to accommodate museum events, there was some confusion at the front desk. We will hopefully be addressing this issue to avoid this problem in the future.
- The added tours also resulted in (perhaps not unexpectedly) error in completing the Red Book information. As a result, we have decided to update the Green Special Request Page as follows:
 - The area in the form which asked, “How did they hear about this tour” has been changed to “Name of organization/or Museum event”. The form will now be orange in color.
 - Since there has been some confusion of the New Actives recording tour information, Patty Santiago will email the class about the importance of recording their tours in the Red Book.
 - Teda led a discussion about the possible need for increasing touring opportunities with the increase in the number of docents we now have in the Docent Council. Adding a Highlights Tour during the Thursday evenings the museum is open was one option that was explored. Having special musical and dance groups during 1st Thursdays proved problematic in leading a Highlights Tour during those occasions. It was also felt that a full 45-minute tour would be too long for Thursday nights. Lectures would also often conflict with touring at that time. We also discussed the success of doing two back-to-back Ten Talks on 1st Thursdays. There are not many people in the museum during the 3rd Thursday evenings. Shirley has experience giving Ten Talks and suggested that one docent could give 2 talks. Once she begins speaking, people gather around. After a sweep more people might come for a second Ten Talk. Ten Talks are slightly more flexible than Highlights Tours with the many events that happen on 1st Thursdays. It was suggested that maybe we could put on the Preference Sheets 2-1st Thursdays as a touring option. Docents could get credit for 1 tour, even if they did 2 talks.
- Patty has the schedule of the exhibitions for next year. She will email them to Susan so she can get them on the Adult Touring calendar.
- The Summer (into Fall) touring team for the “Legacy of Giving, The Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree Bequest Exhibition” has been finalized with Ralph Wilson as team leader. Susan and Denise will be nailing down the tour dates for the team members this coming Wednesday.
- The March statistics are shown below:

	<u>H</u>	<u>A/E</u>	<u>Jl</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>	<u>N/S</u>	<u>D/S</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>CS</u>
<u>March</u>								
# Tours Scheduled	17	17	7	2	0	0	0	3
# Tours Reported	16	17	7	2	0	0	0	3
Zero Attendance	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Special Requests	5	0	2	0	1	1	1	0
# Attendees	191	142	78	24	20	20	7	57
Average Attendance	9	8.4	9	12	20	20	7	19
<u>TOTALS:</u> Scheduled:	46	Zero Attendance: 4			Visitors: 539			
Done:	45	Special Requests: 10			Average: 104 11			

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy expressed her thanks to everyone for the wonderful tours that the students of Santa Barbara have received this year. The responses to docents has been very positive.
- Patsy affirmed that the incoming Docent Council Board looks good.
- The May 15th Docent Council Meeting speaker canceled, so Patsy is working on getting someone else for that meeting. Christine offered the suggestion that bringing in someone from Toast Masters may be of interest.

Student Teams: Nicola Ghersen

- Student events brought a lot of activity and energy this month to the Museum with 402 students on tour. In addition, the Spring Art Camp saw a busy week of artmaking by 7-13-year-olds who were learning about Matisse and creating pieces inspired by his works. The week culminated with a display of student artwork at the Ridley-Tree Education Center, with families invited for viewing and refreshments.
- Provisional docents will be shadowing docents on student tours and presenting two or three pieces on the tours. Team leaders will be reminded to communicate with their teams and make sure everyone understands what is expected, especially flexibility.
- The Friday Focus team continues to engage students with unique themes coordinated by Patsy Hicks. The first tour in April had a small group of students from Riviera Ridge taking a quick tour of *Serenity and Revolution* and *Janna Ireland* focusing on duality, followed by a poetry-writing session exploring the idea of opposites in words and images led by Cie Gumucio, and concluding with artmaking led by Carlos Bardales in which students made an “Identity Diptych” incorporating words in Spanish and English that represent truths in their own lives. The docents noticed how enthusiastic and creative the students were. The students responded well to the activities and Patsy thanked the docents for their guidance.

Research: Barbara Ross (*see report for more details*)

- Barbara presented an interesting study that examined the Provisional’s research papers using the Flesch Reading-Ease Score, the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level analysis, and Microsoft Editor which checks for grammar and spelling mistakes, originality of writing, and statistics about the document including word, sentence, and paragraph counts, readability, and draws attention to the use of passive sentences. Her conclusions were that there is consistency in the number of words our Provisionals used in the research papers (995.6 average - a 2-page paper should be roughly 1000 words). There was a big variance in the use of passive sentences (6.4%-24.5% with an average of 14.71% - below 10% is very good, 20%+ needs attention to writing in the active tense), and in general, the text of the papers is considered difficult to read (11.1 average score = school level 11th-18th grade) and intended for skilled readers at the college level (45.2/100 – higher numbers indicate material that is easier to read; lower numbers mark passages that are more difficult to read) – a fact that was very appropriate for this kind of academic paper.
- A take-away from the analysis is to talk about what passive sentences are next year and encourage the Provisionals to write in the active tense whenever possible.
- Barbara also mentioned that it may be helpful to come up with a template for the Provisionals to follow when they are formatting their paper. There were many papers that

needed revision due to not following the format necessary to keep all of the papers uniform in appearance on the website.

Evaluations: Christine Holland

- Student Tours: Thirty-one evaluations have been completed for the scheduled Student Teams evaluations. The one not completed to date is for a docent who has taken a leave of absence, and her evaluation will be rescheduled after she returns. Scheduling for student tours has been quite a task due to the large list of touring docents and the difficulties with schools sometimes changing their calendars.
- Adult Tours: Evaluations for this year's Adult Team tours have progressed on schedule, with just a few remaining. Two Docents will be evaluated for *Spring Highlights* tours. For the two remaining special exhibits (*Janna Ireland* and *Europe and America Spring*), the Team Leaders are arranging for the evaluations.
- Provisional Class evaluations: The Provisional Class is nearing the final stretch of their training year. The 45-minute tours are scheduled for May 21 and 22, and we are setting up teams of Evaluators. Patty Santiago will be performing her magic, as usual, to set up schedules and to prepare for the tours. Docents have been urged to say "hello" and provide welcoming encouragement to Provisionals practicing in the galleries.
- Ridley-Tree Exhibit: A new team has been formed to tour the exhibit of recent gifts from Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree. The tours will start in July and extend through November. The Evaluations chairs will work with the team leader to arrange for evaluations.
- What a great job the Evaluations team has done this year!

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- No report
- Mike is helping upload research papers to the Docent website.

Nominations Chair: Shirley Waxman

- The nominees for Docent year 2024-2025 were posted in the April 1st edition of *La Muse*. The Council voted on the slate of candidates at the April 3rd Docent Council meeting. There were no nominations from the floor, and all the candidates were accepted by the Council members present.
- A Double Board meeting will be held in June with both the outgoing and incoming Board members in attendance. Shirley commented that the Board is nicely balanced next year, retaining experience from longtime members and including newer docents in leadership. Here is next year's Board:

President: Pattie Firestone (2018)

Vice President: Cindy Anderson (2020)

Secretary: Ursula Ginder (2022)

Treasurer: Mary Benedict (2023)

Membership: Merle Guadagnini (2020)

Adult Teams: Susan Lowe (2020) and Elizabeth Russell (2023)

Student Teams: Nicola Ghersen (2013) and Anne-Marie Dunaway (2020)

Research: Barbara Ross (2020)

Evaluations: Christine Holland (2005) and Laura DePaoli (2000)

Webmaster: Loree Gold (2000)
Nominations Chair: Teda Pilcher (2012)
Provisional Chair: Patty Santiago

Provisional Class: Patty Santiago

- The Provisional class completed the 20-minute talks on five works of art last week. These tours were peer evaluated. Almost all of the Provisionals have signed up for a date and time in April to present two works of art on a student tour. Many thanks to Nicola for helping to coordinate these tours. Lori Mohr will be giving a presentation to the class on Impressionism and Post-Impressionism this coming week on Wednesday. Then next week, Ralph will return to talk about American art and the museum collection. The final evaluations of the Provisionals' 45-minute tours have been scheduled for May 21 and 22.

New Business

- Since the new touring calendar is in effect this year (July 1st-June 30th), the Preference Sheets needed to be distributed earlier so teams can be assigned sooner in the summer. The Preference Sheets will be distributed at the May 15th Docent Council meeting. Those who aren't at the meeting will be emailed the sheets. We hope to collect many of the sheets at the end of the meeting as well as collecting dues at the same time. Patty will notify the Docent Council in an email prior to May 15th that the meeting's focus will be on handing out/collecting the Preference Sheets and dues. All dues will be due June 1st. Mary Ellen can be the designated check collector in Tommie Rae's absence.
- The Provisionals will complete their Preference Sheets in class where we will be able to walk them through the instructions to make them clearer. Filling out the sheets have been confusing in the past. Any questions can easily be addressed during the classroom exercise.
- With so many Contemporary Exhibitions coming next year, we discussed forming a Contemporary Team as one of the Preference Sheet options this year.
- Lori Mohr had a special request. She would like to have an opportunity to explain a little more about what the Community Speakers team entails and what skills are advantageous to have to participate on that team. Being able to put together a PowerPoint presentation is essential.

4. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Pattie and seconded by Susan. Teda adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

The next Board Meeting will be held Monday, May 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Resource Center (FRC).

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board