

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024

Family Resource Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Teda Pilcher, President; Pattie Firestone, Vice-President; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; Mary Ellen Alden, Membership; Andrew Baker, Student Team Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Shirley Waxman, Nominations Chair; Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

Not In Attendance: Tommie Rae Barnett, Treasurer; Susan Lowe, Adult Team Co-Chair; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Barbara Ross, Research; Irene Stone, Evaluations Co-Chair; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster

1. **Call to order:** President Teda Pilcher called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting was made Christine and seconded by Shirley. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Board Reports:**
President's Report –Teda Pilcher
 - Teda reported on her attendance at the Annual Preview Meeting on January 31. This annual meeting honored staff by presenting them with their service pins, as well as hearing the Director's remarks, Curators' reports by Asian Art (Susan Tai), Contemporary Art, and 19th-early 20th Century European Art (James Glisson), and Photography and New Media (Charlie Wylie), and hearing updates from Patsy Hicks in the Education Department. Teda said the Docents were well recognized by applause during the meeting, and that there was a level of high energy amongst those participating.
Vice-President's Report – Pattie Firestone
 - The Broad & MOCA trip January 31
There were 28 Docents and Provisionals on the Bus Trip to on January 31. The Broad Docent-led Tour had 22 people for a cost of \$200. Pattie asked several people to bring snacks. Pattie was unable to attend at the last minute, and she thanked Provisional Sheryl Denbo who brought the wine and water in a cooler, checked the attendance, and gave the driver his gratuity. Thanks were also extended to Denise Klassen who helped get everyone back on the bus. It seemed like everyone had a great time. The cost to the Docent Council was \$60.
 - Meet & Greet Provisionals in February and March
Plans are underway to re-instate the Meet & Greets after the Pandemic to provide small social groups for Provisionals and Actives to get to know and enjoy each other as part of

a team working to promote a love of art, touring, and an appreciation of the SB museum of Art.

-Irene Stone and Susan Lowe have taken over the follow-up after the initial emails were sent to the Hosts & Co-Hosts with their lists of Provisionals, their Mentors, and Actives to invite. They will try to plug regrets into the remaining venues. Pattie hopes to attend as many as she can. Cost to Docent Council is \$0.

-Pattie suggested that going forward, a committee of 2 might be delegated by the VP to oversee this event. She thought it might be better to choose dates and places, and then have people sign up for what works best for their schedule, instead of putting them into groups on a certain day.

-Hosts, dates, and number of people are noted below:

- *Mimi Baer/Judy Dewey (8 people) Thursday, February 15 (lunch)
- *Christine Holland/Merle Guadagnini (8-10) Monday, February 26 (lunch)
- *Wendi Hunter/Cindy Anderson (8) Monday, March 4 (lunch)
- *Irene Stone/Loree Gold (8) Monday, March 11 (lunch)
- *Mike Sandler/Teda Pilcher Saturday, March 23 (1 pm in Thousand Oaks)
- *Shirley Waxman/Elizabeth Russell (8-10) Monday, March 25 (4:30-6:30)
- *Laura DePaoli/Denise Klassen (10) Wednesday, March 27 (4:30 pm)

- April 14 – 18 – Washington, DC

There are 13 people who have signed up for this trip so far, and 9 rooms out of 10 have been reserved at the Cosmos Club. Activities are planned for Monday, April 14 through Thursday, April 18 with an opening dinner Sunday night and closing dinner Thursday night. Pattie will work more on this tour this month.

Secretary's Report - Cindy Anderson

- A bouquet of flowers and a card was sent to Joan Dewhirst from the Docent Council in sympathy for her husband's passing.
- Cindy will send a get-well card to Lori Mohr and a card to Pma to let her know we are thinking of her as her husband is very ill.

Treasurer's Report – (Tommie Rae Barnett absent)

- Tommie Rae sent an email that three checks were written in January for less than \$175. She will send her report to the Board by the end of the week.

Membership Report: Mary Ellen Alden

- Membership Roster Changes

- Christy Close has requested a medical leave of absence.
- Sheila Prendiville has returned from LOA.
- Mike Ramey has resigned from the Docent Council.
- Pma's husband has a serious medical condition; she anticipates missing several DC meetings and requested a LOA. No further information was available.
- Shirley made a motion to approve the LOAs. They were approved by all in attendance.

Adult Teams: (Denise Klassen & Susan Lowe absent- report read)

- Turnout for the January Adult tours was down a bit from December. There were a couple zero attendance tours, but the *Flowers on the River* tour drew large crowds. (Note: One

docent on the highlights team missed her tour by mistake – she hadn't realized she had a tour that day.)

- Regarding the Red Book, there are some Docents listing Special Request Student Tours in the Adult Tour book in error. Patty Santiago suggested we make a Tab for Special Requests to add to the Student Tour book.
- Patty also reported that Sam now has a direct number to the main entrance desk for Docents to call to communicate with them if they are delayed for their tour or another emergency arises. Patty will send out the number in an email to all the Docents.
- Per the people working at the Front Desk, the new signage there showing adult tour times and theme has been a great success! They are still working on providing actual visitor numbers to us. There was some discussion about how to help staff with obtaining this count. Some suggestions were to have the Desk Staff record tally marks for a week to see when most visitors show up, perhaps Docents could volunteer to do that, check the video camera of arriving guests to count the people.
-Patty has looked into the numbers and they are all over the place with many variables. It would be difficult to count numbers for one week and try to extrapolate that data over time. It's very hard to predict. Tuesdays do seem to be busier than some days, perhaps because the museum is closed on Mondays. It was thought that getting a better idea of when visitors visit could help us be more responsive in how to schedule tours and increase the number of people on tours.
- The January statistics are shown below. There were no special requests of community speakers for December.

	<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Ellsworth Kelly</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>	<u>A&E</u>	<u>CommSpeaker</u>
<u>January</u>						
# Tours Scheduled	14	5	5	2	14	2
# Tours Reported	13	5	5	2	14	2
# Attendees	77	38	112	10	101	90
Zero Attendance	0	0	0	0	2	0
Special Requests	0	0	0	0	1	1
Average Attendance	6	7.6	18.6	5	7.2	30

Student Teams: Andrew Baker

- Andrew & Nicola reported that January saw over 628 students enjoying the galleries. One notable group of high schoolers came all the way from Bakersfield and seemed to soak up the riches of the museum.
- Provisional Docents are shadowing student tours and coming away with inspiration for their own upcoming tours. It was suggested we remind the Provisionals they should be silent observers and not to interrupt tours to ask questions. Speaking with the Docent they are shadowing after the tour concludes would be more appropriate.
- Docents gained additional insight into the piece *Someday We'll Find It, The Rainbow Connection...* when Keith Mayerson gave a lecture at the Docent Council meeting last month. The painting continues to be a favorite with students, who instantly identify Kermit and then are led on a journey of discovery by expert docents who ask them to think about meanings beyond the obvious.
- The current Artful Making project with Itoko features Monet's *Waterloo Bridge* and focuses on his use of light, color, and brush strokes.

- The EF school mixed up their Wednesday tour time and missed their 1:00 tour. This has happened before.
- An adult group of individuals with brain injuries has also been involved with the art project tour and they felt it was quite effective and enjoyable for them. They will be coming back again.
- February is shaping up to be an equally busy month, a challenge our docents are ready, willing, and able to face.

Research: Barbara Ross

- Barbara said the Provisionals have been busy on their research papers since last month's report. Although the rough drafts are due February 14, more than half of the Provisionals have submitted a draft and most of those are ready for publication on the Docent Website. See details below:

-Rough Drafts	14
-Ready to Publish	9
-Need Revision	5
-Need to submit	6
- Barbara shares the Provisionals are excellent writers; in general, it seems that the biggest challenge for them has been to create a bibliography, never an easy task!
- Barbara hopes Mike Ramey will continue to help with publishing the research papers on the Docent Website.
- In the February *La Muse*, Barbara highlighted two recent additions to the Ridley-Tree Gallery: *Composition* by Fritz Winter, and *The White Door (Interior with an Old Jamb Stove)* by Wilhelm Hammershoi. Both of these pieces would be excellent choices for research.

Evaluations: Christine Holland

- Evaluations are continuing as scheduled. Docents touring the Winter Europe-American galleries and the Janna Ireland exhibition are being evaluated as arranged by the team leaders.
- There are still 10 of the 32 student tour evaluations to complete, and they hope many will be completed in February, though they know some will need to wait until March. The fact that there are such large numbers of evaluations to be done, that there have been many uncertainties and changes to the schedule, and that docents have busy lives, all these factors have contributed to making it harder than usual to arrange them this year.
- The Provisionals will be presenting their 8-minute tours on Wednesday, February 21, following the Docent Council meeting. There is a team of eight evaluators who have agreed to participate. Patty Santiago is arranging the schedule for the day.
- Christine and Irene are grateful to all the evaluators and to our touring docents, all of whom are working to make our tours effective for the public.

Webmaster: (Gretel Rothrock absent)

- No report

Nominations Chair: Shirley Waxman

- Nominations are open. They have received one nomination and are working to replace those leaving. Teda expressed her sadness that some on the current Board will not be returning to serve on the Board again next year.

Provisional Class: Patty Santiago

- The Provisional Docents have been learning about student touring Thinking Routines. They also have continued their observations of student tours. In addition, they are practicing their 8-minute talks. They were able to practice with their mentors after the last Docent Council meeting. The evaluations of their 8-minute talks have been scheduled for Wednesday, February 21.

-It was noted that after last week's 8-minute session with mentors/mentees, some of the mentors received some push-back from the mentees on the feedback they received. It was brought up that this is not anything new, in fact, it has gone on since one of the members recalled this kind of interaction back at least eleven years ago. Admittedly, it is difficult for many adults to receive criticism, especially those who have been very successful in their previous careers and are starting something new now and are shown they still have a lot to learn. Even though they are specifically asked how they felt about being evaluated during their interview to become a Docent, and they all accepted the fact that evaluations were part of the requirements to becoming a Docent, for some, it's still a big pill to swallow. For most, they welcome the feedback and are appreciative of the tips that will help them be successful, interesting, and welcoming to the public they tour. Presenting the feedback as "coaching" and the feedback as an opportunity to be better are ways we can continue to frame the dialog between evaluators, mentors, and the Provisionals. Reassuring them we are all their friends, trying to use the experience we have to help them be successful is another way to encourage them. Patty, Cindy, and Barbara will continue to reassure them of these sentiments.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy reported that the Janna Ireland installation is complete and that the opening was enthusiastic. There will be a brochure coming out for families, and docents may want to take a look at it as they prepare their tours, especially for students.
- Patsy gave kudos to curator James Glisson and mentioned how much he has taken on lately. He is organizing an exhibit of wonderful art this summer of Leslie Ridley-Tree's collection. James will also be our Docent Council Meeting speaker for the next few months.
- Charlie Wylie's upcoming exhibit will either be in new media or perhaps another *Stillness* iteration in photography.
- This fall there will be a LGBTQ exhibition.
- The preschool program *Literacy Moves* for 3–5-year-olds has been piloted at the SBMA with great success. The program is to expose the children to a museum and other places in the community to help them with experiential learning and reading readiness as they reinforce the vocabulary they are hearing with a visual object or place they are seeing. There may be more young visitors to the museum on Docent Council Meeting Wednesdays.
- The *Friday in Focus* theme for March is Science – Possibly Climate Change

- On Saturday, April 6th, Tom Davey will return with his storytelling techniques creating a meaningful experience for families and kids.

4. **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Nicola and seconded by Shirley. Teda adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

The next Board Meeting will be held, Monday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Resource Center (FRC).

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board