

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART
Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024, 9:30 am. Family Resource Center

Board Members Present: Teda Pilcher, President; Tommie Rae Barnett, Treasurer; Mary Ellen Alden, Membership; Susan Lowe, Adult Team Co-Chair; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Nicola Gherzen, Student Team Co-Chair; Barbara Ross, Research; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Irene Stone, Evaluations Co-Chair; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster; Shirley Waxman, Nominations; Patty Santiago, Provisional Chair.

Absent: Pattie Firestone, Vice-President; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; Andrew Baker, Student Team Co-Chair, Patsy Hicks, Department of Education.

1. **Call to order:** President Teda Pilcher called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
2. **Board Reports:**

President- Teda Pilcher

- The Board did not meet in December.
- Book Club is January 22. There is a Zoom with the author Lisa See.
- The Holiday Party was a huge success.
- The Provisionals have finished their Three Minute Talk Evaluations.

Vice President- Pattie Firestone. Absent. Report read in Pattie's absence.

Docent Trip: January 31 –The Broad & MOCA

- The Broad will charge \$200 for two docent led tours of ten people each. Originally the cost was more. The charge for the Docent led Tour is \$20 per person. Any profit we make will be paid back to the Docent Council. Transportation with Santa Barbara Air Bus will cost \$70/person for a bus with a bathroom holding fifty-six people. I have thirty-two people signed up. Friends and family are invited.

Meet and Greet: Provisionals in February and March

- There are five homes volunteered so far. We hope to have 8-9 homes of active docents to host. We hope to find a co-host for each venue to help organize informal gatherings. The co-hosts will choose dates and times to host a light Lunch or Wine & Cheese. If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting a lunch or cocktails, please let me know.
- Each gathering will include the host and co-host, 3 Provisional docents and 3-4 Active docents to get a good mix.
- In mid-January Patty will send an email to all docents (provisional and active) requesting them to sign up for lunch OR a wine & cheese Meet & Greet and choose the specific dates and times the hosts offer.

- Late-January we will send invitations to the individuals from their hosts - average eight invitees per host in Feb. & March.
- Any suggestions or questions about this event are welcomed. It is still evolving.

April 14 – 18 – Washington, DC Docent Trip

- Make your airline reservations and room reservations soon! It is a busy time in DC with the Cherry Blossom Festival March 20 – April 14.
- We have eleven people signed up for this trip and five rooms taken out of ten rooms reserved at the Cosmos Club through March 15th. Activities are planned for Monday April 14 through Thursday April 18 with an opening dinner Sunday night and closing dinner Thursday night. Participants are on their own before and after those dates.
- Our first day, Monday, we have a tour of the National Gallery. I have chosen a museum each morning to visit with afternoons free. I have a list and links of most of the museums in the DC area, theatres, and Kennedy Center to choose individual evening activities. I have started the group emails to learn how organized participants want to be.
- If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me. Thanks!
Pattie.Firestone@gmail.com

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks-absent. Patty Santiago

- An email will be sent inviting the docents to Parallel Stories this week.
- Thank you to all the touring teams.

Secretary: Cindy Anderson- Absent (Shirley Waxman in her absence)

Approval of Minutes:

Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the November 13, 2023, meeting was made by Irene Stone and seconded by Susan Lowe. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer: Tommie Rae Barnett (Reports attached)

- Checking account balance: \$7796.51.
- Saving account balance: \$10,390.04.
- The expense for the Holiday Party was down due to the wine donation from Loree Gold, flowers from Denise Klassen, and wine glasses from Pattie Firestone. Tablecloths were purchased so they can be used for future parties.
- Tommie Rae offered to write thank you notes to: Patty Firestone, Loree Gold, and Denise Klassen.
- There was discussion of moving the savings account to a higher yield account but is not feasible at this time and the balance may not make that much of a difference.

Membership: Mary Ellen Alden

- The three docents who have missed more than three meetings this year have been notified. The missed meetings were about medical issues and travel. Docents are allowed to miss four meetings per year.
- Jean Smith has gone Sustaining.
- Mary Ellen continues to encourage Docents to report their Public and Research Hours via La Muse and at the meetings.

Adult Teams: Denise Klassen and Susan Lowe

- There has been a great response to the *Flowers on a River* exhibition.
- There were four zero attendance tours, three for the Ellsworth Kelly exhibition in December, due to it being on exhibition since mid-October. There was one tour cancelled due to the rainstorm.
- There were no Special Request Tours or Community Speakers talks in December.

December Statistics:

| Tour Type | Sched | Done | Zero Attend. | Spec Request | Visitors | Average |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| H/L | 19 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 148 | 7.79 |
| Ells Kelly | 10 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 62 | 6.2 |
| Flowers River | 11* | 11 | 0 | 0 | 156 | 14.2 |
| Ten Talks | 1* | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| CSP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Reflects cancellation due to rainstorm

Student Teams: Nicola Gherson

- During the month of December, the docents toured a total of 323 students. With ages ranging from kindergarten to ninth grade.
- January looks to be a busy month of touring with the student touring numbers doubling.
- The word is out in the Santa Barbara school district and the county that we are offering a variety of excellent quality student tours. The Artful Making tours continue to be popular.
- After spending some time reaching out to various student team leaders this month the teams have all gathered and gotten to know each other and are settling into the routine.
- It continues to be difficult for docents to get the understanding that even though the student touring calendar comes out at the beginning of the month it is a

preliminary calendar. They have been reminded many times by team leaders that the calendar may change 2 weeks prior to their scheduled touring dates.

- Some docents feel that if they see they are not needed to tour on the first calendar that is published, they start to put other engagements on those days. Also, some student team members are still unclear about their commitment to student touring. All docent team leaders are working continuously to make this understood.
- Moving forward, we need to re-think the calendar distribution dates and how we communicate the student touring commitment. It does seem we are recruiting more docents that are employed. This can present the problem of docents not being as flexible.
- The addition of this year's provisional class to student teams next year will make for bigger teams and better able to substitute for each other and more Team sharing.
- It would be nice to have a list of Angels that can be called upon to sub.
- The Wednesday tours are up and running for January and they are all booked. A reminder schedule is being sent out to teachers to sign up since the schedule is filling up fast.
- In February, the Artful Making activity changes from the ancient world to Impressionism. The students will be using pastels and learning about blending colors to create an impression of light and feeling in their art piece, inspired by Monet.

Research Chair: Barbara Ross

- The Research has been focused on the Japanese art that is currently on exhibition. The artwork is difficult to research because the artist is often unknown, or no attribution to an artist, or no information when an artist is listed.
- Two papers have been received from Provisionals.

Evaluation Chairs: Christine Holland and Irene Stone

- Evaluations for both Student tours and Adult tours are proceeding well, as scheduled. Below is a detailed list of evaluations completed, and what tasks lie ahead.

Adult Tour Evaluations:

- All the evaluations for the five docents for *Flowers on the River* have been completed.
- All the evaluations for the five docents for the Ellsworth Kelly exhibition have been completed.
- For Highlights Autumn, evaluations are completed for Jeff Vitucci, Cindi Anderson, and Susan Lowe.

Student Tour Evaluations:

- Evaluations have been completed for sixteen of the thirty-two scheduled student touring docents: 50%. With the full touring schedule for January, we expect that the others can be scheduled in an expeditious manner.

What is coming up:

- In the Spring, we will complete *Highlights* evaluations for Merle Guadagnini and Gretel Rothrock.
- The *Winter team for Europe-American*, there are eight docents and team leader Shirley Waxman has organized dates for all team members to evaluate each other.
- The *Winter team for Janna Ireland*, Laura DePaoli is the team leader, and she will set up all team members to evaluate each other. (awaiting tour dates to be assigned for this team).
- The *Spring Europe-American Team*, the team leader is Christy Close. She will set up all team members to evaluate each other (awaiting tour dates to be assigned for this team).

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- The goals are:
 - Form a team to share the Webmaster's duties.
 - To streamline the information on the website.
 - Revision of the By-laws regarding the Webmaster's job description.
 - Facilitate an improved flow of information to the website from data creators on the Board.
 - Start advertising in La Muse to fill volunteer positions on a Web Team. This would include a list of specific skills needed. To begin in January 2024.
 - Ask Patsy Hicks and Patty Santiago to help the Webmaster receive information for exhibitions in a timely fashion.

Nominations: Shirley Waxman

- According to the By-laws the Nominating Committee consists of the Nominations Chair, the President, and the Vice President.
- The Nominations Committee will meet next week to begin the process of creating the 2024-2025 Docent Council Board.
- Nominations are open and we have received one nomination already.

Provisional Chair: Patty Santiago

- The Provisionals have been on a three-week break and return this week.
- The three-minute talks went well.
- The eight-minute talks will be on February 21.
- They are beginning the art history portion of the training.
- Ralph Wilson will be talking about Antiquities this week.

4. Adjournment:

Denise Klassen moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mary Ellen Alden seconded the motion. President Teda Pilcher adjourned the meeting at 10:35 am.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, February 12 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Waxman for Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board