

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART
Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024
Family Resource Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Pattie Firestone, President; Ursula Ginder, Secretary; Mary Benedict, Treasurer; Merle Guadagnini, Membership; Susan Lowe, Adult Teams Co-Chair; Elizabeth Russell, Adult Teams Co-Chair; Anne-Marie Dunaway, Student-Team Co-Chair; Barbara Ross, Research Chair; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Laura DePaoli, Evaluations Co-Chair; Teda Pilcher, Nominations Chair.

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

Not In Attendance: Cindy Anderson, Vice-President; Nicola Ghersen, Student-Team Co-Chair; Loree Gold, Webmaster; Patty Santiago, Provisional Chair.

1. **Call to order:** President Pattie Firestone 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 September 9, 2024 meeting was made by Susan seconded by Mary. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Board Reports:**

President's Report – Pattie Firestone

The President began the meeting by informing us of the tragic and sudden death of Cindy Anderson's husband. Due to Cindy's absence at the meeting, Pattie presented the Vice-President's report and her inspirational "Tips" for meeting the challenges of touring new and diverse exhibitions at the Museum to be shared with the docents at the upcoming Docent Council Meeting. Pattie further commented on the cost and the number of participants pertaining to the Huntington Museum trip scheduled for Oct. 28th. A place for the Docent Christmas Party has not yet been secured.

Department of Education – Patsy Hicks

Patsy expressed that the SBMA Trustees welcome the idea of the Museum being a place of education for the community and she emphasized the upcoming event celebrating Dia de los Muertos at the Museum on Sunday, October 20th. Patsy highlighted as well a bi-lingual Museum tour for Spanish-speaking families that was well-attended and successful. The tour was conducted by one of our docents.

Possible sources to familiarize docents with new trends in contemporary art were suggested such as setting up casual meetings to watch the PBS program Art 21; it showcases today's contemporary visual artists and their creations. Further, a recommendation was made to take advantage of Ricki Morse's essays about currently exhibited artists at the SBMA published in The Muse. Again, Patsy invited docents

to visit the UCSB art museum for the current Puccinelli (*Pooch*) show as it brings to life Santa Barbara's artists community at a time of artistic innovations in the 1980s.

Secretary's Report – Ursula Ginder.

Two get-well-cards were sent out to members of the docent council.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Benedict

Mary submitted the Treasurer's Report as of October 1, 2024. The Report summarizes our revenues, expenditures and changes in account balances for the period Sept. 1 – Oct. 1, 2024 for our checking and savings accounts.

The checking account balance as of Aug. 31, 2024 was \$9,297.08 *
Deposits: none
Expenses: 2 docent trainer stipend x \$250 = \$500.00
Flowers (condolence) = \$120.06
Total Expenses = \$620.06
The balance in the checking account as of
Sept. 30, 2024 = \$8,677.02
The savings account balance as of Sept. 30, 2024 = \$10,414.07*
* Plus interest for September 2024

Membership Report – Merle Guadagnini

Membership has implemented a new system of reporting docents' attendance, tours and research time. With the help of Anne-Marie, who is the creator of the new monthly reporting Google format, we have emailed this new reporting form to the 72 active docents beginning this month. So far, we have received completed forms from 45 of the docents.

Adult Teams Board Report – Susan Lowe and Elizabeth Russell

- September saw impressive touring numbers, with totals surpassing 400, a significant increase from 261 during the same month last year. This growth can be attributed to the ongoing popularity of the *Legacy of Gifts* and numerous special request tours (many of the special request tours were the result of the Community Speakers Program).
- Several docents effectively collaborated to implement highlight tours in response to recent gallery closures. These collaborative tours have proven beneficial, ensuring visitors receive engaging and informative experiences despite the disruption.

- One member of the Spring Highlights Team, David Stoker, resigned. The large Spring Highlight Team remains well-equipped to manage scheduling without issues.
- The Modern/Contemporary team has commenced touring, incorporating works from the permanent collection, *In the Making*, *Accretion*, and *Friends and Lovers* exhibitions.
- September Statistics about tour attendance for 42 regularly scheduled tours show a total attendance of 448. In addition, eleven Special Request Tours (SR) had an audience of 113 (plus more at reception).

Student Teams Board Report – Nicola Ghersen and Anne-Marie Dunaway

- Student tours started on October 1st with the first Artful Making session for students. We have toured a total of 533 students for the month of October. Some student teams were able to gather ahead of their first scheduled tours to get to know one another and create a team bond.
- We have had a few changes to student teams over the last few weeks. Josephine Carrillo and David Stoker are resigning and will be removed from their student teams.
- We will continue to remind team leaders that their role is not to be evaluators but rather organizers and cheerleaders for their team members. We also need to remind docents that changes to their tours can happen 10 days prior to their committed time slots. Those changes will be coming from Molly. It is therefore important for them to stay on top of their emails.

Research – Barbara Ross

Nine new research papers have been completed by new and senior docents.

Evaluations – Christine Holland and Laura DePaoli

The Evaluation Chairs met with Adult and Student team leaders to discuss the evaluations process and to hear their concerns for the coming year. Plans are in place to gather a group of experienced and dedicated docents to serve as evaluators for all types of tours.

Changes to improve the Adult Tour Evaluation Form are being considered with an eye to helping evaluators give more consistent evaluations based on more detailed information.

A workshop for evaluators (and any docent interested in the topic) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th following the Docent Meeting. This will be a review of policies and procedures around evaluations and provide a refresher on what makes a good evaluation and how to improve the experience of being evaluated. This is as well an opportunity to address how to provide supportive and constructive criticism during the course of an evaluation.

We have kept up the message of appreciation to all docents for their continuing positive attitude about this process.

Webmaster Report – Loree Gold

The month was a continuation of finding the flow and updating all information on the website as it comes in.

With the help of Mike Ramey and the advice of *GoDaddy* we added additional protection against hacker intrusion. Ultimate Domain Protection has been added for a \$28.61 yearly rate. This was charged to the SBMA credit card on file and put on automatic renewal.

Mike Ramey has asked to be reinstated as a sustaining docent and would like to continue to help with our website. Acquiring tech support in the future and how to fund it is still a topic of exploration. A search for a new platform for the website is on hold until we know if it can be funded and is needed.

Nomination Chair – Teda Pilcher

No report.

Provisional Chair – Pattie Santiago

The provisional class currently consists of 14 participants, all of them enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 10:45 by Pattie Firestone, seconded by Christine Holland.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Resource Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Ursula Ginder
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council
2024-2025