

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024

Family Resource Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Pattie Firestone, President; Cindy Anderson, Vice-President; Ursula Ginder, Secretary; Mary Benedict, Treasurer; Merle Guadagnini, Membership; Susan Lowe, Adult Teams Co-Chair; Elizabeth Russell, Adult-Teams Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair; Anne-Marie Dunaway, Student-Team Co-Chair; Barbara Ross, Research Chair; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Loree Gold, Webmaster; Teda Pilcher, Nominations Chair; Patty Santiago, Provisional Chair.

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

Not In Attendance: Laura DePaoli, Evaluations Co-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 June 10, 2024 meeting was made by Susan seconded by Mary. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Board Reports:**

President's Report – Pattie Firestone

Pattie introduced the agenda for the September 18, 2024 Docent Council “Welcome and Orientation” Meeting and talked about the logistics of this first meeting.

She initiated ideas regarding the sequence of speakers that would follow the opening remarks by Director Amada Cruz and Huber Guadarrama’s security review as well as the timing of the individual presentations. The list of subsequent speakers, the length of each committee’s introduction and how to stage the event most efficiently was discussed.

Vice-President's Report - Cindy Anderson

Cindy introduced her chosen theme for this year’s goals – Education, Encouragement and Entertainment - as well as her power point presentation that will highlight a message for all docents to care, to grow and to blossom together as symbolized by the image of a Dahlia.

She also provided preliminary information about the Christmas Party (place still TBA), two upcoming docent trips, the first one to The Huntington Library on October 28th, next a trip to Chicago in Spring 2025.

Department of Education - Patsy Hicks

Patsy emphasized the need to encourage more docents to come to the public artists lectures like the upcoming discussion by Elliott Hundley on September 15th, and she provided a look forward to talks at the Docent Council meetings by Dane Goodman and Isabel Barbuza. She pointed out and encouraged

us to see *Pooch* at UCSB's AD & A Museum, since it contains local artists and will be the subject of Goodman's talk.

The upcoming Plaza opening in November will provide new opportunities to include the Museum in the Community Experience. Patsy talked about a possible collaboration between the SB Library Storytelling sessions and our Museum during Hispanic Heritage Week, i.e. bi-lingual tours. Further, Newcomers that are Spanish First speakers will be encouraged to visit our Museum. Regarding additional obligations beginning this fall, all Second Grader within the SB School District will be touring the Museum.

Secretary's Report – Ursula Ginder

Ursula reported that the Docent Council sent a flower arrangement with a sympathy card to Pattie Firestone whose mother passed away.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Benedict

Mary submitted the Treasurer's Report as of September 1, 2024.

- The Report summarizes revenues, expenditures and change in account balance for the period of August 1 to September 1, 2024 for both checking and savings account.
- The checking account balance as of July 31, 2024 was \$8,437.08.
- Deposits made in August amount to \$860.00 total.
- Checking account balance as of August 31, 2024 is 9,297.08
- Savings account balance as of August 31, 2024 is \$10,414.07
- Mary noted that balances for August 2024 do not include interest amount as bank statements have not yet been received.

Membership Report – Merle Guadagnini

Merle described a new Goggle docs format to collect docent touring time and hours of research. This is a more efficient format than the cumbersome spread-sheet type in use thus far. The Google format was successfully implemented for July and August 2024 recorded hours.

Adult Teams – Susan Lowe and Elizabeth Russell

Susan and Elizabeth were happy to report that there is a strong roster of angels available to fill in gaps in touring line-ups. There is also a 12-member strong High School angel team for special requests as well as a team for after school tours. Both Adult Team members emphasized that contemporary art be included in Student and Highlight Tours.

In their written report, the team emphasized that it has been a busy summer of touring, with strong attendance and positive feedback for both the Highlights and Legacy of Giving tours and that special commendation goes to the Legacy of Giving team for handling numerous special request tours and for their engagement with more than 250 visitors at the exhibition opening.

Additionally, the Adult Team Co-chairs have been busy organizing the teams for the 2024-2025 touring year. The teams were finalized and sent out to all docents in late July. A Team Leader meeting took place in August to discuss evaluations, team leader responsibilities, and best practices for scheduling.

Statistics about tour attendance during the month of July show that 40 scheduled tours were attended by an audience of 469; three SR (Special Request) tours had a showing of 26; 277 visitors were at the opening of the Legacy of Giving show. The records for August show an attendance of 431 at 44 scheduled tours and 51 at 5 SR tours.

Student Teams – Nicola Ghersen and Anne-Marie Dunaway

At the meeting, both Student Team Leaders stressed the importance of touring young students, referencing the incoming classes of 2nd graders from the SB School District.

Following is their Board Report for September, 2024.

- *The Class of 2024 participated in student tours for the various art camps held over the course of the summer. This was a great opportunity for new docents to transition to touring with small groups of art-loving students!*
- *Nicola and Anne-Marie reviewed the touring schedule submissions for this coming year. Teams were organized and team leaders selected.*
- *Nicola and Anne-Marie met with Patty S. and Molly to discuss upcoming goals for the museum as it relates to student touring in effort to organize the student touring department. It was helpful to understand how valued the student touring is for the museum as it relates to realizing its goal of connecting with our diverse community.*
- *Nicola and Anne-Marie met with the team leaders to discuss the upcoming year and identify role of team leader and objectives. We have modified our methodology in that we are holding team members to their committed dates/times until released by team leader for the month. The intention of this change is to better distribute the touring within the team in a more equitable way while ensuring docent touring requirements are met.*
- *Thank you to Molly Kemper for copying and organizing all the printouts for the student team leader meeting.*
- *Nicola met with the Evaluations Chairs to discuss how to improve student touring techniques for our docents such as incorporating the asking of questions as part of the tour to increase engagement. Anee-Marie and Nicola will be working with Laura to help schedule evaluations so that they are addressed at the onset of our school year.*

Research – Barbara Ross

At the meeting, Barbara again emphasized the importance of research papers for works in the museum by living artists. And referring to our current Rauschenberg exhibit, she suggested to provide a link to a video “Taking Venice” about the 1964 Venice Biennale that might help us see the larger picture of Rauschenberg’s importance within the international artworld at that time.

Barbara’s report provides a list of current and coming exhibitions and a checklist for the 21 contemporary artists included in the “In the Making: Contemporary Art.” No research papers have been written for 18 of these artists.

Evaluations – Christine Holland and Laura DePaoli

At the meeting, Christine emphasized the need to help existing evaluators by training more docents to take on that role. There was further discussion about the role and the training of mentors and how to create a better rapport between mentor and mentee in order to achieve the desired preparedness for provisional docents' evaluation.

Following is the report by the Evaluations Chairs, dated September 9, 2024.

- *The Evaluation Chairs, Laura DePaoli and Christine Holland, met in August to plan for the 2024-2025 service year. Christine will be coordinating adult tour evaluations and Laura will be coordinating the student tour evaluations.*
- *In consultation with the Adult and Student Tour Chairs, lists of exemplary docents were drawn up to be evaluators for Highlights and Student Tours. In September we will contact the docents on this list to ask if they are willing to serve as evaluators.*
- *In August we met with Nicola Gerson, Student Teams Chair, to discuss student evaluations and to get recommendations for new evaluators. As a result of that discussion, Nicola and Laura will be looking at the form used for student evaluations to see if it can be streamlined and simplified. We have 30 docents that need student tour evaluation in the 2024-2025 touring year, including our 15 new active docents. They will be prioritized so that they are evaluated in the fall and the remainder will be done in the spring.*
- *In August, we attended the Team Leader Meetings for both Student Tour leaders and Adult Tour leaders. We explained the evaluation process, and distributed the evaluation forms and information about quality evaluations.*
- *In early September, we met with Docent Council President Pattie Firestone to review current status and plans for evaluations, and to discuss ideas for improving the evaluation forms and process.*
- *We will proceed to set up evaluations for the Student Tours of the 15 New Active Docents, and later the 15 Active Docents who are at their two-year mark and will require an evaluation.*
- *We will identify the Docents who will require evaluations of the Highlights tours. In addition, we will coordinate with Adult Team Leaders for evaluations of tours for special exhibits.*
- *We also will start getting ready for the evaluations of the Provisional Class. It is hoped that the Provisional Chairs can do evaluations for the 3-minute talks. The Evaluation Chairs will set up a team of volunteer evaluators to evaluate the 8-minute and 45-minute presentations. In addition, the evaluation chairs may suggest that they make a presentation to the class about the evaluation process.*
- *A number of Docents over time have indicated that they would like to see some training offered to evaluators. Since focus and special exhibition team members evaluate each other, a lot of us are doing at least one evaluation in any given year, so we plan to open that training to anyone who is interested. The timing, format and content are to be determined in collaboration with the Education Department.*

Webmaster Report – Loree Gold

At the meeting, Loree initiated a conversation about changing the Docent Web Site. There is a need to establish a better way to get everything that is of importance to all users onto the website. The question was raised whether to explore possibilities of new platforms, also whether we should change the password. A general feeling of a desire “to move forward” was expressed.

In her report, Loree emphasized that as our museum and galleries take on a new look our web-site will need some updating. She further acknowledged Mike Ramey current role as the true web master handling all input except the Provisional Docent page.

Loree expressed that her goal is to organize a Web Team and to work with the Board and importantly the Research Chair to keep our web site Current, Member Based and User Friendly.

Nominations Chair: Teda Pilcher

Teda proposed to initiate an amendment to the By-Laws as it pertains to the Research Chair. It would allow the person in charge of Research to be eligible to stay in position after the fulfillment of the three-year maximum term commitment.

Provisional Chair – Pattie Santiago

Pattie announced that the recruitment process for new docents is complete and that 15 new provisional docents will begin their training this month.

4. Adjournment

Pattie Firestone adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Family Resource Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Ursula Ginder
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council
2024-2025