



From our **Provisional Chair and
Coordinator of Docent Programs**
Patty Santiago

Meet 17 of 22 Provisionals from the Class of 2024



Darcy Burk I moved to Santa Barbara in 2020 after decades of living on the East Coast and in London for my career in international finance. My various relocations gave me multiple opportunities to become familiar with some of the finest museums in the world and I frequented them with great enthusiasm. In 2009, I had the pleasure of being on the board of The Frost Museum of Art which is a small but beautiful museum based in Miami. There I helped frame their strategy and worked closely with the head curator. As much as I have enjoyed my career in international finance, the wonderful experience with the Frost Museum whetted my appetite for more. I chose living in Santa Barbara, following the wise footsteps of family members, and now almost completely retired, I am delighted to dedicate my energy to being a docent at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.



Paula Campanelli Born in Massachusetts, I became a California girl, raised in Thousand Oaks, a Jungleground of adventure for free-range children. In college I studied Art History, graduating from UCSB in 1980. After a first job in Palenque, Mexico transcribing pictures for a book and organizing a conference on Mayan studies, I returned to Santa Barbara, working in jobs ranging from galleries to restaurants making my way. A few years later I met my husband—we built a home on the Riviera and had two beautiful daughters. Eventually I was hired at their school, Roosevelt, teaching art to grades K-6. That was followed by teaching ceramics for thirteen years at Anacapa School. My husband and I have traveled and visited museums around the world. At home we are involved with myriad arts organizations and continue to attend events ranging from the Opera, Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra (my husband was a founding member), CAMA, the Lobero, Granada and of course, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. I look forward to spending time at our Museum, learning again and sharing my love of art as a docent.



Johanna Chase I moved to the Santa Barbara area in 2019 and retired in 2023 after thirty-six years in public education as a teacher, administrator, university lecturer, and researcher. My work focused on whole child health and wellness education, including working with the US Department of Education, the CDC, and serving on numerous local, county, state, and national councils and committees. I was pleased to expand my expertise and collaborate with the Mint Museums in North Carolina as well as NC State University, Wilson College of Textiles, to promote arts education experiences in school systems throughout North Carolina. I'm excited to contribute to arts education at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and engage visitors in art appreciation.



Becka Chester I have always had a passion for art and history. I studied Painting, Printmaking, and Interior Design at UCSC and Cal State Long Beach before beginning a career in Interior Design. I was based in Hong Kong as Managing Director for an L.A.-based design firm, which included travel to many countries in the Far East. In 2004, I was recruited by Hilton Hotels Corporation to be their Vice President, Interior Design. Five years later, I left and started my own consultancy, where I had the freedom to also teach English, History (U.S. and World), and Art to my friends' children at a small, home school program. I even traveled with them to Rome, Pompeii, Washington D.C., and New York City. In 2018, I lost my husband to cancer. Closing my business, I turned to writing. As I had traveled to Japan many times with him, I was drawn to writing haiku, which I found brought me solace. I am a co-editor of an online haiku group—some of my poems have been published in online anthologies—and have graduated from a course in Teacher Training. Currently, I am writing a memoir, combined with poetry, of life with my late husband. I have returned to Japan several times since he passed away and will continue to do so.



Bobbi Corbin I grew up in Philadelphia. My early studies were in education, then graduate school in Art History. After working in small architectural firms in Philadelphia I headed to New England, earning a degree in Fine Arts and then Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design. For over twenty years I owned and ran a design showroom in Boston and a retail store in Cambridge, selling modern architectural products. In the mid-1990s I attended culinary school, landing a job with Four Seasons Hotels in Boston as a pastry chef. Eight years later I moved to Ojai where I spent another two + years with Four Seasons L.A. before founding KNEAD Baking Company in Ojai with my daughter. Soon my son and older daughter joined us. KNEAD became a beloved meeting spot for over ten years. For me, making pastries is an art form. The mix of art and chemistry demands the same care and tenacity. In late 2018 we sold KNEAD as I wanted freedom to travel and explore other creative and social outlets. I am a member of the UCSB Museum Council and participate in the Carolyn Glasoe Bailey Art.



Sandy DeRousse My husband and I moved to SB in 1976. For the next twenty-five years I held a variety of staff positions at UCSB. Retiring, my husband and I became owners of The Palace Grill restaurant (see Michael's bio below). I was a docent at our Santa Barbara Zoo for seven years, and ran Storytime for children. I was also a member of the Zoo's fundraising committee for fifteen years, have been on the Board of Directors for the Santa Barbara Braille Institute Auxiliary since 2006, and served as Board President twice. I am currently a Board Member for VISTAS Lifelong Learning, a nonprofit providing adults in Santa Barbara with a variety of courses. For the past six years I have been a docent at Lotusland, one of the ten most beautiful gardens in the world.



Michael DeRousse In 1976, my wife and I came to Santa Barbara, where I served as Executive Director of UCSB's Campus Dining Services for twenty-five years. but also had consulting assignments for many of the nation's food manufacturers such as Tyson, General Mills, Nestle, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Land O Lakes, etc. I've also served on the advisory boards of Harvard and Stanford University. Continued...

After retiring from the University in 2000, my wife and I decided to purchase The Palace Grill, a local New Orleans-style restaurant, for which I had consulted as a favor to a friend since 1987. The Palace has been voted "Best Service in the City of Santa Barbara" thirty-four times, including 2023. I have been a docent and mentor at Lotusland for eight years, doing two tours per week, as well as served on the Board of Directors of The Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. We have been fortunate enough to have traveled much of the world, often in pursuit of scuba adventures, but mainly just to enjoy other cultures the world has to offer. Lastly, I have been an avid photographer since my teens.



Carol Forhan I have lived in Santa Barbara since 1961 – almost a native. After thirty-five exciting years consulting in health policy and research, I retired and went back to school to become a teacher. For the last seven years, I've enjoyed the company of children ages two to twelve in both public and private school settings. I currently teach part-time at the Starr-King Parent Child Workshop. I am a graduate of Antioch University, SB, and served as a trustee/officer on the local board for seven years. My graduate work was at New York Institute of Technology (MBA). I also hold a Master level teaching certificate in Early Childhood Education.



Lynda Gilderman After living most of our lives in the San Fernando Valley, my husband and I decided that Santa Barbara was the place that we wanted to call home. Since October 2020 we have lived on the Mesa and feel lucky to be in this wonderful community. I earned a BA in accounting from Mt. St. Mary's College in L.A., and started my career working in financial audit at KPMG Peat Marwick. With a few job changes I decided to step back to be with our kids, now young adults. In 2016, I became a docent at The Getty Center and guided school groups both in the galleries and online during the pandemic. I am a long-time hot yoga practitioner. I like to cook, read, ride my e-bike and meditate.



Linda Gorin After spending the first twenty years of life in NYC, where I graduated from Barnard College and S.U.N.Y. Downstate Medical Center, additional training and work took me to Seattle, WA, Stanford CA, U.C. Davis, Houston TX, Santa Barbara and Scottsdale as a Faculty member at Medical Centers in those cities. My husband and I travelled extensively, enjoying an adventuresome exposure to the foods, music, art and people of the places we visited. Travel invariably centered around art museums. My husband and I also spent five years as Medical Directors of Amigos de las Americas, training high school and college volunteers to Latin, Central and South America. I am now retired and living in Santa Barbara.



Allou Gurhmiller I have a beautiful home in Mt. Shasta, a spiritual mecca, and a great place to write/publish my inspirational books. After the last ten years there, I was ready for a new chapter in my life, bringing me to Santa Barbara. I traveled for sixteen years worldwide, owning a wealth of rich inner experiences. I delved into holistic studies as an ER nurse, taught in the Healing Arts: Reconnective Healing/Reconnection, Empowerment Series, Abundance & Living your Passion, Therapeutic Humor (verses destructive humor in communication), and Facilitated Play for the seriously minded professional. I retired from nursing but believe in continuing to learn and share uplifting service. I have one son living in L.A. who is a director.

I am single and live with my medical alert animal, a German shepherd poodle mix.



Emily Marino I moved to Santa Barbara in September 2022 from NYC, where I was born and raised. My husband Joseph and I provided legal education to law students, law graduates and practicing attorneys throughout the country. Our company is a licensed continuing legal education provider in most U.S. jurisdictions. Marino Bar Review, a three-generational business, has trained tens of thousands of students since 1947 to study and pass the New York Bar Exam. Successful students include former governors, senators, judges and the most famous bar exam test taker, John F. Kennedy, Jr., who passed after failing with two other companies. My husband passed away in 2016 after battling cancer related to 9/11. Prior to conducting bar review courses I was a Special Education teacher for a decade.

I moved to Santa Barbara to be closer to my son Michael, daughter-in-law Erika, and my three grandsons. Having run classes for young and more mature students for over fifty years I believe I can be a valuable asset to the docent program at SBMA and am excited about and appreciative of the opportunity.



Besty Randolph I moved to Santa Barbara in February of 2023, after living in NYC for twelve years preceded by Greenwich, Ct., where both of my children were born and raised. When not traveling throughout South America and Mexico with my husband on business, I volunteered at both their schools—from the “Garden Education Center “ organizing the Annual Plant sale to chairing holiday events and the annual fundraiser. I also volunteered at the Greenwich Historical Society, chairing and co-chairing the primary fundraiser, a “Holiday House Tour”. I also chaired the main fundraiser for the Bruce Museum of Art and Science, known as the “Renaissance Ball”. I served two terms as president of the Greenwich Antique

Society, organizing programs, lectures and guest speakers. While living in New York’s West Village I was the Volunteer Coordinator of seventy-two garden volunteers. I joined the Auxiliary of Lenox Hill Hospital, serving on the Executive Committee and as chairman of the Art Committee.



Sandra Stingle As a New Yorker who wintered in Santa Barbara, Walter and I never thought we would leave NY, both of us with deep roots and active there—Walter as a surgeon with interests in think tanks, tennis, and golf; me as a psychologist at Barnard College, Columbia University, a psychotherapist in private practice associated with Columbia Presbyterian and Cornell Hospitals, and a guide in Central Park. But with children in California we gave Santa Barbara a full time try in 2021. The rich cultural scene seduced us. We are surprised to be so happy in this smaller pond. We love the people, museums, film societies, Newcomers group, and philanthropy groups like the Santa Barbara Women’s Fund. I look forward to being more a part of the community with my work as a docent at SBMA.



Thea Van Tonder I was born in South Africa and moved to SB thirty years ago. I have three children and six grandchildren all living here. I have had an opportunity to get to know indigenous cultures and started collecting Artifacts and Textiles from Africa, Asia, India and America. As a lifelong educator, with degrees in Fine Art, History of Art, and Education, I have taught Art and English to foreign students. In the 1980s my husband and I had a game ranch and started the Safari Co, one of the first photographic (vs. hunting) safaris. When we moved to the U.S., we were one of the first booking agencies on the Internet. I look forward to

continuing my lifelong education as a docent.



Sue Starr Walker I was born and raised in Manhattan, and moved to Goleta with my newly wedded husband in 1989. We have two adult daughters, and a borderline-crazy Border Collie mix. I'm a geographer by academic training and spent thirty+ years as an environmental consultant. In my early adulthood I worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, volunteered at the American Museum of Natural History, and dreamt of one day becoming "the next" Kenneth Clark. Although I doubt that career goal will come to fruition at this point, I'm truly thrilled to be joining the SBMA docent family!



Michael Wilk Our family moved to Santa Barbara in 1967; ten years later I left for college at UC Irvine to study computer science—well before anyone thought it was cool to do so—where I also took art history survey courses taught by Philip Leider (a founding editor of Artforum magazine) which was nothing short of an enlightenment. My eyes were opened. In the years that followed I served as a high school teacher, a graduate school teaching assistant, and an instructor to computer professionals while living in Connecticut, New York state, and various cities in California. In 2012 I returned to my hometown for good, and now plan to rekindle my longtime interest in the arts.

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From our **Provisional Chair and
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Meet the rest of the 22 Provisionals from the Class of 2024



Debbie Auday My husband and I recently moved to SB after living on the North Shore of Massachusetts for 34 years. My career was spent as an educator, teaching elementary school, middle school English, and graduate education. I am still teaching my graduate students remotely on their journeys to become teachers. I also observe and evaluate teacher candidates who are preparing to start their practicums. During my years as an educator of elementary students, I wove art education into the curriculum, studying an artist a week. At the end of the year, we invited family and friends to join us at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where students gave talks about an artist of their choice. This memorable experience hopefully created a lifetime appreciation for and love of art, which is my goal as a docent. I love to read, walk, lift weights, juggle, hula hoop, and go to Newcomer events.



Kendra Chappell As a writer, collaborator, and teaching artist/ theater director I am committed to the abundance and multiplicity offered in story. My previous career included 32 years as a public high school theater teacher; an adjunct educator for Missouri State University; a guest director at Springfield Little Theatre; and currently a resident director at The Gillioz in Springfield. I am the writer and director of *The Milly Project* as a member of Theater Ambassadors for the Ensemble Theater Company at the New Vic. I am excited to put this background to use as a future docent and pleased to be in the training program. My husband and I are grateful that life has recently delivered us to our new homeland in Santa Barbara, and look forward to time with family, friends, and adventures in this magnificent natural environment.



Sheryl Denbo Following both of our children to California, my husband and I moved to SB in 2017. I had worked as a social studies and English teacher in middle and high school while completing my education. Trained as a sociologist, I moved on to teach on a wide variety of urban education issues, first at Brooklyn College and later at Dartmouth. Working as Director of the non-profit Mid Atlantic Equity Center in Washington, DC, I supervised a diverse staff of professionals to assist schools to support the achievement of Black and language minority students.

Twenty-two years ago a friend signed me up for a community based abstract painting class and I fell in love. Fifteen years ago I retired from education and became a full time artist. I now divide my time between a small community in Lubec, Maine and Santa Barbara, and have the privilege of painting and showing my work on both coasts.



Liz Silacci I am a Southern California girl born and raised in Redondo Beach. I attended Chico State University where I graduated with a BA in Graphic Design and a minor in Spanish. Following college I returned to LA where I worked at Princess Cruises in marketing and graphic design and had the opportunity to travel to far away lands. Marriage to my husband Mike took me back to the Bay Area where I worked for a print production company and an advertising agency in San Francisco. After the birth of our two children, I became a stay at home mom. In 1997 Mike’s career brought us back to SoCal where we landed in beautiful Newbury Park! Art in all its forms has always been a love of mine. I’ve been a Student Tours docent at the Getty Center for five years and also volunteer teaching art at our local elementary school. My family has spent a lot of time in Santa Barbara over the years, and while I would love to live here, I am happy to travel weekly to learn and share with the wonderful new friends of our docent class.



And in class....The provisional docents have been learning about “Elements of Art” and “Principles of Design.” They have been using Object Worksheets and gallery exercises to help them to understand how to analyze an artwork. Each provisional docent has chosen a piece to present for their Three Minute Evaluation on November 15th. In anticipation of this first milestone, provisional docents have been assigned a mentor to assist them in their preparation. Thank you to all active docents who have agreed to serve in this very important role. You are an integral part of the training program. *Patty*

Patty Santiago, Provisional Chair

Mentor		Provisional	
Josie Martin	Linda Gorman	Marcos Christodoulou	Bobbi Corbin
Irene Stone	Sandra Stingle	Christine Holland	Debbie Auday
Teda Pilcher	Sandy DeRousse	Tommie Rae Barnett	Carol Forham
Seraphim Albrecht	Johanna Chase	Andrew Baker	Becka Chester
Mimi Baer	Lynda Gilderman	Mary Benedict	Thea Van Tonder
Pattie Firestone	Betsy Randolph	Laezer Schlomkowitz	Michael Wilk
Barbara Boyd	Emily Mariano	Laezer Schlomkowitz	Kendra Chappell
Gretel Rothrock	Allou Guthmiller	Belle Michael	Liz Salacci
Jeff Vitucci	Michael DeRousse	Judy Dewey	Paula Campanelli
Elizabeth Russell	Sue Walker	Greg Farrington	Darcie Burk
Mary Ellen Alden	Sheryl Denbo		