

SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

Ridley-Tree Education Center 9:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Karen Howsam, President; Teda Pilcher, Vice-President; Tommie Rae Barnett for Jeff Vitucci, Treasurer; Cindy Anderson, Secretary; Pattie Firestone, Membership; Susan Lowe, Adult Team Co-Chair; Denise Klassen, Adult Team Co-Chair; Irene Stone, Student Team Co-Chair; Nicola Ghersen, Student Team Co-Chair; Sarajum Quazi, Research; Christine Holland, Evaluations Co-Chair; Shirley Waxman, Evaluations Co-Chair; Patty Santiago, Coordinator of Docent Programs; Gretel Rothrock, Webmaster

Absent: Jeff Vitucci

In Attendance: Patsy Hicks, Director of Education

1. **Call to order:** President Karen Howsam called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Action Item: A motion to approve the Board minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting was made by Shirley and seconded by Irene. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Board Reports:**

President's Report – Karen Howsam

No report, but Karen expressed her thrill with the great job the active docents are doing. She also commended Shirley and Christine for the work they are doing with docent evaluations.

Vice-President's Report - Teda Pilcher

- Teda has been working with Patty Santiago to get the slate of candidates ready for nominations for next year's Board.
- Jeff Vitucci will be stepping away from his position as Treasurer for the rest of his term.
- A motion was made by Pattie Firestone and seconded by Irene Stone to allow Tommie Rae Barnett to fulfill his role as Treasurer for the rest of the year. There was no discussion, and the Board unanimously voted for Tommie Rae to be approved to fulfill all of Jeff's responsibilities as Treasurer (check writing, managing the savings and checking accounts, etc.).
- Teda is planning a trip to San Francisco for the docents from April 27-29. Contact Teda by phone or email if interested.
- The Book Club will be reading *The Grand Affair* – the museum store will give 40% off if interested docents pre-order the book through them. The book will be discussed April 24 at 10:30 in the FRC. Future Book Club meetings are scheduled for July 24 and October 23 at 10:30 in the FRC. Thanks to Patsy and Patty for their support and scheduling a place to meet.

Secretary’s Report - Cindy Anderson

- A card and double orchid were sent to Jeff Vitucci to uplift him in his recovery from recent health issues.

Treasurer’s Report – Tommie Rae Barnett for Jeff Vitucci

- All of the Symposium and Holiday Party charges have now been paid. Our Savings account had an increase of \$5.96 bringing our ending balance to \$10,362.89. Our Checking account balance is now \$5378.07.

Membership Report: Pattie Firestone

- There are currently 50 paid Active Members.
- Ralph Wilson has requested a LOA for this year. The council unanimously approved his request. (There are a total of 3 Docents on LOA now.)
- There are 48 paid Sustaining Docents.
- Hours of Research recorded: 9,145, Hours of Public Touring recorded: 634
- Per the Docent Council By-Laws, Pattie has emailed docents who have missed three council meetings and that if they miss more than 4, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Board.

Adult Teams: Susan Lowe

- Susan and Denise are waiting for several team leaders to return their finalized Spring touring dates.
- The stats for February show a bit of an uptick in the Highlights Tour attendance, but those numbers may be attributed to the “free museum day” and the Joan Tanner Exhibit.
- After some discussion, it was decided to add back Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 11:30 tours beginning July 1. There was some concern voiced by several docents about the need to have 8 tours to fulfill their commitment for the year. Some docents have not had that many tours this year. If docents are short on tours, please contact Susan or Denise to see if subs are needed, or if they can fill the needs of other touring groups.
- The James Castle Exhibit will be from June 25-September 17 and is anticipated to draw many visitors. The need for a touring team was discussed and Shirley volunteered to be the team leader and Nicola agreed to be on the team.
- Here are the statistics for the month of February.

	<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Am/Euro</u>	<u>Tanner</u>	<u>N/S</u>	<u>Ten Talks</u>	<u>Special Req.</u>
<u>February</u>						
# Tours Scheduled	8	8	6	2	2	1
# Tours Reported	8	8	6	2	1	1
# Attendees	60	32	46	6	5	8
Zero Attendance	0	2	0	0	0	0
Average Attendance	7.5	4	7.76	3	5	8

Community Speakers

<u>Month</u>	<u>Scheduled Tours</u>	<u>Reported Tours</u>	<u>0 Attend Attendees</u>	<u>Avg Attendees</u>
February	2	2	0	36

Student Teams: Nicola Ghersen

- In February there were 446 students who toured the museum. They expect to see this pattern continue throughout the Spring.
- An email was sent to all student touring docents letting them know of the Provisional Class beginning to shadow docents in March. Patty will arrange the scheduling of the Provisionals to shadow in March and again in April when they will do 1-2 pieces on the student tour.
- The time frame for the Thursday *Artful Making* tours has been a concern. When problems arise with a late bus, or a late docent, the time restriction of 30 minutes is cut short and does not allow adequate time for the activity. Nicola and Irene requested a review and reconsideration of the schedule for next year to extend the time for the *Artful Making* experience. Patsy offered to do some research with the teachers to get their feedback for extending the experience to 1h15 minutes. It was also mentioned that we could use 1 docent to be a support for the teaching artist and 1 docent to help corral the students during the *Artful Making* tours.
- We also discussed adding in more student touring dates to allow for more docents to tour and more students to benefit from school visits. Adding Wednesdays (2nd & 4th when the Board is meeting) or more Fridays are days to consider.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

- Sarajum will be sending papers that have been submitted to her during her tenure as Research Chair to Lori so she can notify docents in La Muse of the new research papers that have been completed. This is in addition to the new papers submitted by the Provisional Class.

Evaluations: Shirley Waxman

- Shirley reported that all evaluations are going well. She provided a list of all docents who have been evaluated at this time for the Docent Year 2022-2023.
- A few evaluations were missed during the Photography exhibition. In the future, the Evaluation Chairs will send out reminders to the team leaders about their responsibility to organize the evaluations for Special Exhibitions so that they are completed before the exhibit ends.
- Evaluations for the Joan Tanner Exhibition, Nature and Spirituality, and American/European tours continue.
- A huge thank you to the Evaluations Team who evaluated the Provisional's 8-minute talks in February.

Webmaster: Gretel Rothrock

- No report
- Gretel continues to work with Mike & Gail and is entering the touring schedules, minutes, and calendars to the website.
- It was noted that the Docent Council lectures had not been uploaded to the website – Patsy and Patty have been working with IT to rectify this situation in hopes that they will be made available soon.

Provisional Class: Patty Santiago

- The Provisional Class successfully completed their 8-minute talks in February.
- They also finished their unit of study on Asian Art. A big thank you to Shirley Waxman for giving her outstanding “Nature & Spirituality” talk to the class in the galleries.
- The focus of the class is now on student touring. The Provisionals will be observing two student tours in March and early April, and then in late April and May they will be paired with a volunteer docent to observe that docent’s first tour and then present two works on the second tour.
- Lori Mohr is presenting her presentation to the class on “Impressionism and Post-Impressionism” on March 8. Ralph Wilson will be returning on April 12 to talk to the class about “American Art”.

Department of Education: Patsy Hicks

- Patsy spoke about the upcoming James Castle exhibition. The museum is looking at adding some writing and sketching sessions in the gallery to have the public be creatively inspired by his work. Nicola and the teaching artists are also developing wonderful ideas for the students to do in conjunction with the exhibit. A dance performance by Bay area dancer Antoine Hunter is also being slated.
- A broad and deep search is underway for Director Larry Feinberg’s successor.
- A Recruitment event for the next docent class will occur May 18th from 3-5:00 p.m. An introductory presentation will begin in the Auditorium with guided tours and refreshments in the FRC to follow.

4. **Adjournment:**

Karen adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Our next Board Meeting will be held on April 12, 2023 in the SBMA Auditorium after the 10:00 a.m. Zoom presentation by Kathryn Zupsic of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (former SBMA docent).

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Anderson
Secretary, SBMA Docent Council Board