

Honolulu Museum of Art
Minutes of the Docent Council Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2016

In Attendance: Carol Root, Debra Gray, Betsy Robb, Jan Tucker, Jenny Engle, Georgia McKenzie, Christine Park, Evelyn Redman, Lizzy Lowrey, Lynn Hiyakumoto, Sue Francis, Jeri Simons, Hannah Slovin, Tomoko Kamiya, Sabra Feldstein, Cathy Levinson, Jill Clapes, Myoung Won Han, and Karen Ley

Carol called the meeting to order. She stated that the minutes of the January 14th Meeting had been approved. The following business was then addressed:

Stephan's Farewell Party

She said that the preparations for the Docents' farewell party for Stephan, which was being held that afternoon had been completed. This included choosing a book of Photography which had been recommended by Jim Pierce, the wrapping of the gift, which had been arranged by Joyce and Tomoko; Tomoko found a cloth which had Japanese good luck symbols printed on it for a furoshiki style wrap.

A farewell oli will be given as well as a hula. Jeri stated that there would be available a printout of the words to a Hawaiian song of farewell for all the docents to sing for Stephan. Jeri said that a basket of Island style treats will be presented at the party but then shipped to Stephan's new home.

The breakdown of the farewell party expense was as follows: \$42.00 for the book, \$15.00 dollars for the cloth wrap, \$100.00 for the gift basket.

The Docent Survey

Betsy presented the results of the recent Docent Survey via a very detailed written compilation of the responses, which was passed out for each of those present.

She shared the gratifying news that overall the responses to the survey questions regarding how the Docents felt about the experience of being a Docent were extremely positive.

The few "negative" comments turned out to be simply a lament regarding old age and the limitations imposed on the more elderly Docents in respect to continuing leading tours.

Jeri expressed appreciation for the comments that Betsy added in reply to the concerns expressed by the Docents about all the various issues covered in the survey.

Betsy felt that the Docent feedback was very valuable for the Education Department Staff. For example, some respondents felt that there were not enough opportunities for further learning; however, it could be a matter of reminding Docents to check the Docent Website as opportunities are posted there regarding the many lectures, walk-throughs, Curators presentations, which occur each week. Betsy will post the docent summary shown to the board today on the docent website.

The Mentor Program

Betsy explained that because the current DOT class is very small, she thought that it would be beneficial for the members to have established Docents as mentors to

enable them to better feel integrated into the program. Of the eight to ten mentors chosen for a given DOT, she felt that a mix of Docents who work with adults only, those who work with children only and those who work with both adults and children would be a good idea.

Docent Mentors are not obligated to participate, and the DOTs were not given the names of their potential mentors. For this reason, those Docents wishing to be Mentors should Contact the name of the DOT whom they were given.

Following are the Committee reports:

The Treasury Committee:

Evelyn Redman is now the official new Treasurer, after having worked with Dwight Lowrey as the Assistant Treasurer for the past year. She reports the the budget is healthy at \$13,300.

The Docent Room Committee

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the ongoing issue of how best to enable the Docents to access the information needed to conduct tours.

Hannah stated that those docents who have volunteered to work on the Docent room resources have had an initial meeting. Joyce felt that the incoming members of the Docent Room Committee should have at least one of their members attend each of the Docent Council Board Meetings that take place during their tenure. Cathy stated that Mif recommended Hannah as a replacement for her position as Chair of the Adopt-A-Gallery Committee.

Sue understood that Mif had organized the binders by subject matter rather than by gallery. Lynn felt the consensus is that more information should be on-line and less should be in the binders. Jeri volunteered to help upload information online and concurred that the information should be condensed rather than expanded.

Betsy hopes that in the future, the docent website would have one web page per gallery, and one page per work of art. She shared a view of the new look.

Betsy shared that each gallery is listed online by gallery number with a description of that gallery and a list of it's objects. If one clicks on a given work of art, it opens into a new page and there is a description of that

object with the label and wall text. Betsy can add information about new art objects online as soon as she receives it from the curators. . Debbie suggested having a cross referencing system, connecting galleries to tours. Carol thought that if the Docents are simply notified that a new work of art has been installed, then each one could look up information about that work as needed.

Finally, Lynn wondered if the description of the duties of the Docent Room Committee should be updated to reflect the additional work of organizing and refining all of the information contained in the Docent Room binders. Discussing the Docent Room. It was noted that the requested motion sensor light switch will be installed.

Book Club - Lizzy said the book club has been well attended for the first two months of the year. Betsy noted that we should limit gallery tour groups to 15 so if the group is larger than 15 in the galleries, then docents should not stay on the tour. It was asked whether this was a problem. Lizzy noted that some guests stay for the book discussion only. We will have to continue to monitor the numbers and may consider adding a third day each month if our participant numbers continue to increase. Betsy asked if a flip tour might be possible. Lizzy did not think that was a good option. Lizzy also shared that a participant in February worked in the Lending Collection and was able to bring mounted photos of work by an artist we do not have in our collection. Lizzy said this might be a resource more docents might want to use for their tours.

Hospitality - chairs were not at the meeting because they were working on the party which followed the meeting. It was announced that the May lunch was changed since Carol was not available for the May lunch date. We were able to change the date to Wednesday, June 1st. We were fortunate that Waialae CC had an alternate date available.

Nominating Committee - Sabra thanked the members of Nominating committee for their work (Jill, Cathy and Lynn) for reaching out to docents to volunteer and she passed out the slate for review. The board deferred adoption of the slate until the next meeting so that the chairs of Hospitality and Docent Room could be settled. Once adopted, the slate will go to the full docent council for approval at the June 1st luncheon.

Sue Francis noted that at the time of the officer and committee chair changes the binders will need to be passed on. She asked everyone to review their position descriptions. This will make the roles and responsibilities clearer to new officers and committee chairs.

Foreign Language Docents:

Japanese Language Docents-Tomoko said there are four new Japanese speaking DOTs. Three are currently shadowing more experienced docents and will start doing tours. Betsy said she is planning some meetings with these new DOTs but there are not enough to hold a training class. New Japanese-speaking DOTs can already help with directions and assisting the touring Japanese speaking docents since there is such a large demand for tours in Japanese. The JAL in-flight magazine visited HMA and took photos of Tomoko on tour. The article is being published in March and will be available in JAL Business Class from April 1st.

Korean Language Docents-Myoung said that in the last three months (Dec-Feb) the number of Korean speaking visitors has increased. Right now there is coverage for Tuesdays from 10am-12noon but more help is needed so she is hoping there will be more Korean-speaking DOTs soon. Myoung stated that there is a new discount air carrier that has launched flights to Honolulu increasing visitor traffic from Seoul.

Betsy-Announced that there are new walk-through and training opportunities coming so check the docent website. The afternoon adult tours have been changed slightly. There was little demand for Zip tours so these will be replaced by tours of new exhibitions from 1-1:30pm. Spotlight tours will still be available from 1:30-2pm. Docents would sign up for either new

exhibitions or spotlight, but remain on duty for the full hour. While one docent is on tour the other will remain at the entrance, serving in the same role as Aloha Lead during Morning Starters (provide information, directions for visitors). Betsy encouraged docents to sign up for these slots; many of these slots have been unfilled and visitors are asking for docents at this time. It would be just one more hour to serve if you are touring in the morning.

Jenny-The fourth school poster has been sent out for distribution and Jenny is working on a 5th poster. Unfortunately this has been delayed as she is waiting for approval from the artist. The artwork is Portrait of Iz by Yan Pei Ming. The museum is allowed to use images of art because of fair use laws which allows us to reproduce copyrighted work but since the artist is living we are waiting for formal approval from the Artists Rights Society as a courtesy.

Georgia- 1,500 responses to the student surveys have been received. The results have been overwhelmingly positive but there are still some next steps to work on moving responses from “agree” to “strongly agree”.

Christine-Discussed the new school and family/church group tours that she has developed with the Kress Fellowship grant linking the Philippines and Renaissance galleries. Christine worked with the Filipino Association of University Women and the FilCom Center in Waipahu and has worked to engage with the local Filipino community. Tours have been developed for church or Sunday School groups or school groups from 5th grade and up. The tours are scheduled for 1-1/2 hours. Community volunteers have been trained. Some of the volunteers are teachers and retired teachers who may be interested in becoming docents.

Some docents have been involved with the tours (Virgie Chattergy, Consuelo Rogers and Nancy Miwa) and more information/training is available to others if interested.

Betsy noted that the community engagement has been valuable and has brought new visitors to the museum so she is hopeful we will be able to continue this.

The Meeting was Adjourned

The Final meeting be will be held on April 21, 2016