

Volunteer Council Meeting Minutes

15 October 2014

Attendees: Cathy Ryan, Katy Senkus, Joyce Schwartz, Susan Lewis, Paula Tosini, Virginia Flavin, Deirdre Palmer, Jennifer Cross, Lynn Russell, Maria Amelia Ramaciotti, Marina Bradfield, Marilyn Mathis, Dianne Maffia, Marta Horgan, Liz Diament, Dianne Stephens, Michele Sutton

Welcome: Cathy Ryan, the Council Chair for 2014/2015 year, welcomed everyone and announced that this was the first of two scheduled Council meetings for the year.

Lynn Russell's Report

1. There will be an exhibition made up of objects from the Corcoran's American collection from February 1, 2015 to 3 May 2015. It will feature about 40 objects, mostly paintings. This exhibition has not been announced publicly so should not be shared with anyone from outside the Gallery.
2. Any decisions about incorporating the Corcoran pieces into the permanent collection are still pending with conversations on-going.
3. EB construction seems to be proceeding as scheduled. Use of the EB atrium for talks has proven not to be ideal. But it appears that the EB Auditorium will re-open in the spring of 2015. In the meantime, simultaneous transmission from the WB Lecture Hall is now available.
4. A merger of the Gallery's adult programs (docents and art information) and the teacher/family programs staff is in the works.

This will allow more effective use of staff and capitalize on commonalities in the programs.

Committee Updates

1. APW and APD both reported that they are concentrating on support to their docents with the goal of docents validated on additional tours. Both also noted that this year is going much smoother than the prior year. FLD noted the latter as well.

2. The Maryland/DC school docents reported that their merger into one unit has worked well and they are also working closely with the VA school docent group. They also offered kudos to the adult docents and staff in how smoothly juggling adult tours and schools in the WB is working. VA school docents had nothing to report.

3. Art Information reported that it is working on Continuing Education goals for its volunteers including requirements that they attend docent-led tours. Also, it will be recruiting for a new class starting in January. Lynn requested that Corcoran docents be notified of the call for a new class of volunteers. .

Guidelines

Dianne S. reported that she is working with the adult docent groups on a common set of committee guidelines to supplement the overall Volunteer Guidelines approved by the Council last year. APW and FLD have approved but APD is still reviewing.

East Building Tour

Liz shared the results of the surveys that visitors have completed regarding the EB Modern Sculpture Dialogues in Three Dimension tour.

The overwhelming reaction has been extremely positive with visitors reporting a greater appreciation for modern sculpture and enjoying the interactive nature of the tour.

It is probable that a visitor survey of a WB tour is in the future, probably the Highlights tour.

Volunteer Lounge Status

Deirdre reported that the lounge refurbishing is still a work in progress with furniture out for refinishing and painting and new carpeting coming. There is a new color copier already installed and it is possible that the lockers will be replaced with ones that have electronic keypads rather than require the use of a key. The artist files have been moved temporarily to the school tour material room.

Liz will check to see if it is possible to get Wi-Fi access in the lounge.

New Class of School Docents

Recruitment for a new class of school docents - up to 40 - will begin in the fall of 2015 with training beginning in the Fall of 2016. Current school docents will be asked to help mentoring candidates.

Adult Program - Volgistics

Adult docents will start using Volgistics to schedule themselves for their tours beginning with the schedule for the month of January 2015, and that scheduling will start taking place probably in the middle of November 2014. Parameters such as such as the number and kind of tours you sign up are still being worked on. This frees up Arlette who has been doing the scheduling for other functions. However, Arlette will still schedule special event tours.

General Public Tour Update

The staff is looking at ways to get more information to the public about tours. This is especially important as the Gallery's bi-monthly calendar is no longer going to be printed. As a result, the schedule for adult tours will be standardized so it can go up on the website at least two months in advance. Also, a better sign for the rotunda is in the works.

Next Meeting

The Council will meet next on March 18, 2015.