

From: Columbia Museum of Art
Sent: 8/20/2015 1:02:26 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: The CMA Seeks Dedicated Volunteers for Docent Training

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August 20, 2015

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The CMA Seeks Dedicated Volunteers for Docent Training

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CMA Docent Maureen Mahon leads a group tour

Columbia, S.C. - This fall, the Columbia Museum of Art will welcome a new

group of committed volunteers for its docent training course. Applications for this exciting opportunity are currently open. Trainees will receive an in-depth view of the CMA with various training exercises including lectures, gallery talks, and hands-on studio demonstrations led by the curatorial and education staff members. The program will provide participants with the strong ground work of art history. The CMA Docent Corps is a group of creative, hard-working, and curious people from diverse experiences and educational backgrounds. What unites them is a passion for sharing art with others and furthering the CMA's goal of bringing valuable and fun art education to all.

A docent's job is dynamic. They may lead a school group on a tour and assist with studio projects that tie into the tour's theme during the week, and facilitate exploration and discussion with casual group tours of the collection or current exhibition on the weekends. Docents bring their own personal take on art together with intense, ongoing training to make tours truly inspiring. "I just wanted to be able to learn more, and to pass on that knowledge to other folks," says longtime docent Bauer Westernen. "Sometimes, people who may not have an art background or have studied art don't realize what the artist may be saying. As a docent, I'm happy to try and enlighten them a little bit more."

Docent corps members receive all of the benefits of membership, as well as opportunities to attend special luncheons, participate in trips to other cultural institutions, and are eligible to attend many educational lectures and gallery talks free of charge. "Being a docent at the Columbia Museum of Art has been a double delight for me," says Ann Holtschlag. "Not only do I get to pursue an ongoing interest in art, which I never had the opportunity to study in school, but I get to do it with interesting and congenial people ... many of whom have become good friends." To foster enthusiasm and knowledge of the arts, share that knowledge with the community, and help make the museum a more vibrant and welcoming place, becoming a docent is the perfect way to volunteer.

Docent applications are due by September 1, 2015. To learn more or download an application, visit <http://www.columbiamuseum.org/support/volunteer>
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About the CMA

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, SC, CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses nearly 7,000 works and spans thousands of years of history, representing a range of world cultures. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 135,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, Arts & Draughts parties. It is the recipient of a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education and an Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

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