

# Figge Art Museum Docent Program

## ***What is the Figge Docent Program?***

The Figge Docent Program is a lively group of art enthusiasts who enjoy learning and sharing their knowledge of our collections with our visitors. The word *docent* derives from a Latin verb that means to teach, to conduct, or to take care of. At the Figge, the docents are a vital link between the art and our visitors.

The Figge Art Museum is an ever-changing environment, so the excitement never ends! We have special exhibits and rotations of art in our permanent collection to engage visitors. Docents are trained and have opportunities to learn about new artists, their work, and their processes. The training provides knowledge about art history, our collections, and techniques to enhance presentation skills. Docents support the Figge's commitment to providing all visitors (adults and children) with positive and engaging experiences. We strive to make our tours interactive and fun.

## ***What do they do?***

- Create a welcoming environment for talking about art with people of all ages and varying backgrounds.
- Participate in lifelong learning with workshops and training sessions, peer to peer modeling, and even studio art experiences.
- Act as a Gallery Guides during Museum events, providing informal interactions.
- Use the Art Cart to engage visitors with informal tours and hands-on activities.
- Provide tours for all ages of visitors from young children to senior citizens.

## ***Who makes a good Docent?***

- Someone who is enthusiastic, patient, has a sense of humor, and is flexible.
- Someone who has good interpersonal skills and is non-judgmental team player.
- Someone who is curious and enjoys life-long learning.
- Someone who is comfortable speaking with groups.

## ***What background is needed?***

- An art background is not necessary, just an interest in learning about art.
- Good communication skills are important.
- Having flexible time for volunteering and training is necessary.
- Basic computer skills and using email.

### ***What is the commitment?***

- Attend monthly trainings, usually held monthly on Tuesday at 10:00AM
- Participate in Decent led At Talks, usually held monthly on the third Wednesday at 3:00PM.
- Attend as many workshops, talks, and lectures as possible.
- Spend time in the galleries, looking at the art.
- Engage in Independent Studies to learn about the art and the artists for background information.
- All Docents are required to maintain Figge membership.
- All Docents commit to giving at least ten tours per year.

### ***What does training involve?***

Participants will attend training sessions to become familiar with the Figge collection and learn how to help visitors interact the art. New Docent training covers the Figge Art Museum's Permanent Collection, touring techniques, shadowing tours, touring practice, mentoring by active docents, and other learning opportunities. Candidates will complete a twelve-week course.

### ***How do I apply to be a Docent?***

Participation in the Docent Program is a two-step process that includes completing a written application and completing an informal interview. Candidate docents will be invited to participate in a 12-week training course.

### ***Docent Contacts***

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