

Hood Museum of Art Initial Docent Training, April–June 2020

New docents will go through an initial training period, during which they will meet with the associate curator of education twice a week on Monday and Wednesday mornings between April 1 and June 10, 2020. These sessions generally last three hours, from 9:00 AM to noon. (This simulates the time commitment of an active docent: attending training sessions on Monday mornings from 9:00 AM to noon; being available to lead tours on an assigned day of the week, Tuesday through Friday, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM; a modest amount of leading tours or helping staff museum programs at other times during the week; reading information provided during training; and tour preparation.)

Trainees learn about teaching and touring strategies, the learning needs and behaviors of various audiences, how to work with visitors with special needs, and about the museum (its history, the architecture of the building, the scope and content of the collections, and the Hood as a teaching museum for campus and community audiences).

Trainees are expected to complete homework assignments that involve reading, writing, a modest amount of research, and observing and practicing tours. At the end of the initial training period, each trainee will meet with the associate curator of education to review their progress. All trainees who have satisfactorily completed the first term of training will be invited to become regular, active docents.

New docents are required to make a commitment of at least two years of service to the museum beyond the initial training year. This is because the initial training process involves a substantial investment of time, energy, and resources on the part of museum staff as well as the volunteers.