

Frequently Asked Questions about the Hood Museum of Art's Docent Program

Hood docents are volunteers from the community who bring with them a wide range of personal and professional experiences. They are lifelong learners who enjoy teaching and working with a wide range of audiences about diverse works of art and world cultures.

What do the docents learn?

- How to make the museum a welcoming place for all visitors
- The ways children and adults learn
- Interactive teaching strategies
- Art historical information about the museum's collections and special exhibitions

When do they learn?

- Ongoing training takes place on most Mondays from 9:00 AM to noon, from September through June
- Special trainings are scheduled throughout the year

How do they learn?

- Observing education staff model strategies
- Working with each other and mentors
- Attending trainings, lectures, and discussions with educators, curators, and specialists
- Evaluating themselves and others

Where do they learn?

- In the museum and galleries from original works of art
- In the Orozco murals in Baker-Berry Library
- At home, reviewing materials

What do they teach?

- Skills for looking at art that help viewers feel comfortable and competent in forming an interpretation of a work
- Information that helps visitors put objects into context and helps students connect art to the school curriculum
- The artistic process; how art is made
- All areas of our collection and special exhibitions

When do they teach?

- Docents sign up for a day of the week and then are available to work with any group who requests a tour that day
- Occasional weekend family programs, Saturday afternoon introductory tours, and some evenings

How do they teach?

- Interactively
- Encouraging discussion
- Facilitating, not "lecturing"
- Providing opportunities for different types of learners to be successful

Where do they teach?

- In the museum galleries
- In the Orozco murals in Baker-Berry Library
- Occasionally on campus