



DOCENT COUNCIL

The Docent Council, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, provides volunteer tours of LACMA's permanent collection and special exhibitions to a wide and diverse audience.

The time commitment to become a docent is significant but there are rich rewards. Our program is challenging and requires continuous preparation. The friendship of a varied and interesting group of colleagues starts with your training class, and being able to introduce children to the world of art is extremely gratifying.

Provisional training for the LACMA Docent Council is a two-year program which requires a significant time commitment. During the first year of training, classes meet every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., late August through May. Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory. First year Provisional docents learn about LACMA's encyclopedic collection through lectures, gallery walkthroughs, and gallery exercises. In addition, Provisionals learn special techniques for touring students in an art museum. LACMA student tours are all conversation-based and interactive. Under the direction of the training team, each Provisional develops his or her own teaching plans, which are designed to encourage students to look closely, to construct meaning through careful analysis, and to think critically.

You will be assigned weekly written projects which are to be completed on computer and emailed to your trainers. Provisional docents spend at least one additional day each week on study projects and have added responsibilities providing service to the Docent Council during both years of training.

Provisional docents spend their second year of training touring our youngest museum visitors, students in grades 1 through 5. These are 60-minute tours presented twice on the same morning throughout the school year. Docents tour a minimum of 21 days on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday tour. ([See class visits.](#))

Provisional docents also have the pleasure of joining their fellow docents in a wonderful program of continuing education during their second year of training. These lectures and programs are held on Wednesday mornings and you will be required to attend at least 8 of them.

Consider applying to be a part of the Docent Council and introduce students of all ages to LACMA's 150,000 works spanning the history of art from ancient times to the present.