

Heard Museum Ed Council Notes 1.21.2015

Present. Mel Medler, Jackie Kemmer, Judith Dobbs, Marilyn Brooks, Sue Snyder, Elinor Rothberg, Dorothy Sullivan, Gloria Murison, Jim Szabo, Phyllis Manning, Connie Thornton, Emma Sansone, Myrene Sari, Bob Sari, Elaine Weston, Sidney Wilson, Jan Lathrop, Joan Jasso, Bill Bates, Rusty Hale, Sandy Kravitz, Sue Snyder, Evie Smith, Jaclyn Roessel and Shaliyah Ben, of the Education staff.

Shaliyah offered several tips on touring with children:

When the students enter the classroom for Bonus Tours, Shaliyah and Darian ask what five things did you learn about today?

NOT about ogres. Yes about clowns that help correct the behavior of all, including adults.

At the end, ask “what are you going to tell you mother tonight?”

Elinor Rothberg has 10 key questions she tells the group about, tells them the question and answer, and then reinforces that at the end of the tour. We will be working to distribute these questions to guides.

Shaliyah is working on ideas to incorporate STEM concepts into the tours—will enhance our desirability for future school tours. She and Jaclyn will work to make guides aware of which skills are included in the curriculum for each grade level.

Grades 1-7 are scheduled for 45 minutes in the mornings; grade 8 and above are scheduled in the afternoon.

Jim Szabo recommended tours with ADD and ADHD students have 4 students per Guide; focus on one item, and keep the class moving.

The maximum number of students we can accommodate at a time is 70; a school with 75 students could not be accommodated.

Education staff as part of their outreach responsibilities will be meeting with the Valley of the Sun United Way about a summer program with food banks to offer free lunches and incorporate the arts. The Heard and other organizations will be meeting with them February 17-18 in Mesa.

On February 14, education staff will make a presentation at a Higher Education Conference at the Hyatt. At that time, they will push the short courses.

Vocabulary words we should explain—these are part of the on-line web packet, but we need to be able to reinforce these words/concepts.

Ancestor
Descendent
“Southwest”
Pueblo—both a village and the tribe
Culture
Matrilineal
Tribe
Mesa

Shaliyah will be working on a separate Children’s Tour presentation after the Fair.

Jaclyn:

The coming walk-thrus:

Jan 30: Isleta photographs- Brief start in Monte Vista, primarily in Jacobson at 9:30 and 1:30. Be aware, there is limited parking that day. The group asked if there might be some accommodation here since the Heard is extremely busy that day with Super Bowl activities both during the day and again in the evening. There are complications due to the speaker’s previously booked air travel, but Jaclyn will see if it is possible to change the times. Stay tuned for possible time changes.

Feb 27: Loloma in Lovena Ohl.

To be scheduled.

The Rain exhibit cannot be re-created per a request of some guides. As a real alternative, Ann Marshall will lead Walk-Thrus with Rain as a theme.

Click on to Heard.org to register for the Jan 30 Kevin Gover symposium. Free to museum members but we still need to print out the ticket as a capacity crowd is expected.

Contact Phyllis Manning to register for the Thursday, February 19, 2015 Docent exchange 10:00 am at the Phoenix Art Museum. It will include PAM, Desert Botanical Gardens, and MIM.

A lively and productive discussion followed concerning the length of tours. There have been many instances of tours taking from 60-90 minutes. Some of these have happened during Peer Reviews and therefore have been discussed with the guide. In these cases, it has been suggested that the guide might follow other

guides to help with focus and pacing. If necessary, guides have been asked to take the Short Course for further refining of their touring skills.

However, in the course of regular touring, tours taking over the regular 45-50 minutes are mainly learned of from reports from unhappy fellow Las Guias. This is causing unrest in the ranks. Noticias, Jaclyn and Sue have pointed these problems out and asked for guides to be aware that this is a problem in many ways. It causes disruption with the schedule in general and is not in the best interests of patrons who might be on a tight time schedule. It is also against the commonly accepted guidelines of attention span (25 min.) and against common sense for physical limits on standing/walking time for a population that averages 60+.

After an open and frank discussion, it was decided that the best way to handle this problem, is to ask guides to self-monitor their tours. One guide suggested that people look at the number of areas to be covered in Home, divide by 45 minutes, factor in the fence and "housekeeping" comments and set your pace accordingly. Another suggested that instead of considering touring as a "Thanksgiving Feast" one would be well to try the "tapas" approach. We are only giving a small taste of each area.

It was decided that the Ed Council would ask each person present to spread the message that we each need to look into our own touring times, tighten them up and ask other guides to take the same approach. In addition, it was decided that if guides experiences a problem with tours going over the 45-50 minute time frame, they will notify either Jaclyn or Shaliyah by email or phone and they will resolve the issues thru the Education Department. It was stressed guides are not to take it upon themselves to intervene.

We all represent the Heard Museum and as such want the visitors to have a good experience and to want to come back to learn more.

Evie Smith
Sue Snyder

The next Las Guias Ed Council meeting will be on Weds. March 18th at 1:00 in Encanto.