



**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for your interest in the Metro Art Docent Council. The Metro Art Docent Council is a group of volunteers committed to increasing awareness of the broad range of public art in the Metro Rail system through tours that provide insights into the communities they enhance, the art, the artists and their processes. While docent programs are commonly found at museums around the world, Metro is the first transit agency to benefit from such a program.

- **All applicants are required to follow at least one public or private tour given by a Metro Art docent prior to applying to the docent program.**

Our monthly Public tours consist of the following: the first Saturday of the month begins at the North Hollywood Metro Station at 10 AM; the second Saturday of the month is in Spanish and begins at Union Station at 10:30; the fourth Saturday of the month begins at the Del Mar Gold Line Station at 10:30; the first Sunday of the month begins at Union Station at 10 AM; the second Sunday of the month is a Union Station Only tour at 10:30; the third Sunday of the month starts at the Santa Monica Expo Line at 10:30.

Tours last approximately two hours. Special- request and private art tours are free for groups of 10 or more and are available by special arrangement. The Docent Council Coordinator sends requests to the docents to lead these tours.

### **General Information**

- Metro Art tours take about 2 hours and are approximately 90% walking; there are elevators and escalators in all of the stations.
- The Docents distribute TAP cards that are pre-loaded with an all-day pass allowing tour participants to ride the Metro Rail & Bus system for free. Attendees may keep the TAP cards and reload them for future use.
- Docents use voice amplifiers and wear bright orange safety vests for easy identification. Both are provided by Metro.
- There are no public restrooms available in the stations but there are restrooms available to the public at Union Station and the Hollywood/Highland shopping complex as well as various businesses along the routes.

### **Docent Requirements**

The Metro Art Docent Council will be looking for the following qualities in an applicant:

- An ability to speak articulately and present accurate information creatively
- An inventive mind that can bring life and fun to a tour
- A willingness to share information about public art and to be a public representative of the Metro Art Docent Council and Metro at-large
- Enthusiasm for learning
- Flexibility

- Dependability. Docents are expected to arrive early for their tours, to keep their touring commitments and to report the number of tour participants to the Docent Council Coordinator immediately following each tour.
- A willingness to develop knowledge of public art and an understanding of the Metro Transit System in Los Angeles.
- Attend monthly meetings/Field Trips at Metro on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 AM

### **Docent Training**

- **Docent Training will take place on consecutive Thursdays until all of the stations and Union Station are covered. The training begins at 10 AM and is followed by a non-mandatory no-host lunch.**
- Attendance is mandatory at all training sessions.
- Training workshops are presented by veteran Metro Art Docents who have particular knowledge of specific works/stations.
- Docent trainees will read about the artworks and artists, study their context and background and explore the themes of each station in the Metro Rail System.
- Docents receive training in touring techniques and how to effectively present to and manage a group in a transit station
- Docents-in-training will present station tours to their group throughout the training process for which they will receive constructive feedback.
- The Council requires that each new docent share several tours with an experienced Metro Art Docent before doing a solo tour.
- The Council expects each docent to commit to doing a minimum of 12 tours per year

### **Perks for Docents:**

- Your docent badge enables you to ride the rail and bus system free of charge as well as providing access to the Metro Headquarters Building and elevators.
- During the training, enrichment sessions are offered throughout the year for all docents, along with planned field trips.
- Validated parking at the Metro Headquarters Building and the ability to park in Metro Parking Lots for free
- No training fee
- All voice amps, vests, badges and training notebooks are provided by Metro and will remain the property of Metro if you choose to leave the Council

Metro Art Docents are sincerely dedicated and an extremely talented group. We look forward to your application to this program. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

**Barbara Lashenick**

Barbara Lashenick

Senior Community Relations Officer

Founder Metro Art Docent Council

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