

Volunteer Docent Program

The Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento (CCAS) will be offering free docent-led group tours of current exhibitions this fall on the Second Saturday of each month from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. and 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. Docent-led tours for school field trips during the week or large groups will also be offered by calling the Center at least two weeks in advance.

To prepare for the tours, CCAS is offering a free volunteer docent program training. Students may receive community service hours for taking the training and leading tours. Tours last forty-five minutes and include both a guided tour of the current art exhibition and a hands-on, art-related project. Training for volunteers begins July 2012. Docents are required to attend all training sessions. The registration deadline is June 30, 2012, and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note the program is limited to ten participants.

Volunteers will receive training over four, consecutive, two-hour (noon to 2:00 p.m.) Saturday sessions. Training will take place at CCAS at 1519 19th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Session 1 – Introduction to CCAS: Volunteers will learn CCAS’ history, organizational chart, mission, and vision. Participants will receive time sheets and other documentation required for class credit. Session 1 will also include a brief overview of the elements of art.

Session 2 – Touring Strategies: The first portion of Session 2 will include a brief overview of the principles of design. Then the class will then focus on how to conduct a tour for K-12 groups and adult visitors. Touring strategies will emphasize object-based and inquiry-based learning, so that participants will receive training on how to engage the viewing audience in a dialogue. Training will include techniques for encouraging audience participation, stimulating an appreciation of the art on display and provoking reflection on what the art communicates to the viewer.

Session 3 – The Context of Contemporary Art: Volunteers will learn how to define Contemporary Art and Experimental Art and explain its context within art history. Training will focus on modeling how to develop an idea using critical thinking skills. Training will also explore the different processes and media used by contemporary artists.

Session 4 – Mock Tour Day: Docents in training will conduct short practice tours and receive docent guides for the upcoming CCAS exhibitions.

Volunteers are required to docent a minimum of two hours a month for a minimum of three consecutive months. To become a volunteer docent, please contact us at (916) 498-9811 or by email at ccasacramento@gmail.com.