

Consider becoming a volunteer Docent at the Ackland Art Museum!

What is a Docent?

Docents are adult volunteers who teach art-based experiences in the Museum galleries for school and community groups. Docents are an essential component of the Ackland's education programs, which engage a broad spectrum of audiences from the University, K-12 schools, and the community beyond. Docents' responsibilities include participating in Docent training sessions, preparing for and teaching in the galleries, and assessing their own teaching in the program.

What do Ackland Art Museum Docents do?

The Ackland Art Museum Docents are a dedicated group of volunteer educators who offer their time, talents, and expertise to support the Museum's education programs for K-12 teachers and students and for community members and organizations. The majority of these audiences are elementary and middle-school-aged children, but they also include high-school students and adults.

What are the qualifications and characteristics of a successful Ackland Art Museum Docent?

- A sincere interest in people of all ages
- An ability to communicate clearly with individuals and groups
- A sense of flexibility and cooperation
- An interest in art and enthusiasm for lifelong learning
- An outlook of respect for all people's point of view.

Do I have to be an art history expert?

No. Prior background or expertise in art, art history, or teaching is NOT REQUIRED. Docents receive training that prepares them for guiding interactive tours and programs successfully.

What training will I receive?

Phase I includes weekly sessions from early September through mid-December. Additional training will be offered during the spring semester. Sessions will focus on art in the collection, audiences, and gallery activities.

When do I begin teaching groups?

After completing Phase 1 of training, new Docents will begin teaching in the spring.

Are there any costs involved in being a Docent?

No, but Ackland Art Museum Members are given first priority for all volunteer opportunities. For more information about membership, go to: www.ackland.org/support/membership/.

Docents in the program are responsible for their own transportation and parking expenses. For more information about public transportation and parking near the Ackland, go to www.ackland.org/about/directions-parking/.

What are the benefits of being an Ackland Docent?

- The joy of working with and learning from Museum visitors.
- Being part of a team of skilled educators who love to connect people with original works of art.
- Personal and intellectual growth. Docents have continuing opportunities to learn about art, the collection, teaching, and learning.

How do I apply?

Complete an application and include a resume or curriculum vitae and names/contact information for two references.

Questions? Please contact acklandlearn@unc.edu.