

AGM docents are trained volunteer educators interested in leading groups of visitors through the current exhibition, offering insights into special programmes. Docents lead visitors of all ages on tours designed to expand the viewers' experience with an appreciation for art.

If you enjoy learning and sharing knowledge and are passionate about art, artists and sharing information – then you will be an excellent Docent!

Additional opportunities for docents include the following:

- Serving as outreach ambassadors to inform the community about the AGM permanent collection, exhibitions, and programmes
- Leading art projects to engage youth
- Creating new programme and outreach concepts
- Participating in special events such as Open Doors, Canada Day, The Mayors Levee and other public events in Civic Centre

Being an AGM Docent is an exciting way to meet people, engage in the community of Mississauga. The Docent Programme is a key leadership position at the AGM. Docents are enthusiastic and collaborative thinkers who are excited about connecting the gallery mandate “bringing the art to the community and the community to art” in new ways.

Docents are selected upon completion of a Volunteer Application, a review of their CV/resume, and an interview. Note that only suitable candidates will be interviewed. Bilingualism is an asset.

The goal of the programme is to create a community of enthusiastic learners for education support, engagement platforms and other upcoming new programmes at the AGM. Docents are encouraged to bring their specialized skillset to the AGM; their opinions and suggestions will be valued during the learning experience. In the field, learning will create new experiences! The Docents are open to explore a variety of ways to lead visitors through exhibitions. After completion of the Training - Docents may choose to specialize in giving tours or workshops to a particular audience group - the general public, school groups, seniors, artists or people with disabilities. Docents may choose to be involved in the Annual Auction or serve on other committees. The goal of the programme is to inspire viewers to become passionate about the art community and to create a fun learning environment!

About the AGM

The Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) is a public, not-for-profit, art gallery generously sponsored by the City of Mississauga, the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, private citizens and its members.

The Mission of the Art Gallery of Mississauga is to promote awareness and the appreciation of the visual arts through the operation, development and growth of a public, not-for-profit art gallery.”

Commitment Expectations for Docents:

- Docents are asked to commit to training on the first Saturday of each month
- Docents are also asked to attend to exhibition training every six weeks
- Docents will be asked to commit to a two-year term

- Docents will give one to two gallery tours each month
- Docents will facilitate a tour for the Docent Group on a work of art or the exhibition on a whole
- Docents will be asked to purchase an annual membership for \$30 (\$50 value)

Training

Docents will be expected to commit to a training cycle. The goal is to assist the Docent in understanding the daily operations of the Gallery, as well as learn how the AGM functions through participation. Key elements of the Docent programme are to engage each member to a higher level of commitment with continuing education training geared towards contemporary art and critical thinking. Docents represent the AGM!

Upon completion of the 5-month training, Docents will assist with facilitating the presentation of public programs, conducting tours for school groups, corporate sponsors and other visitors.

Upon acceptance into the Programme each of the selected 15 Docents will participate with the following:

- Orientation
- Education Classes taught onsite at the AGM by Curator
- A Facility Tour given by Operations Manager
- History and the Future of the AGM by the Executive Director
- Attend the Introduction to Social Media Workshop

Training:

- Study of historical and cultural context in which art was created – in lieu of each exhibition.
- Study and practice of visual learning strategies, and discussion facilitation techniques to engage viewers with dialogue.
- Completion presentation and public speaking skills by attending a public speaking workshop designed towards practice tour preparation and to promote interactive touring skills
- Docent training includes talks by AGM curators, outside specialists, readings from sources and gallery participation.

Most classes for the Docents will occur on a Tuesday (Dates TBD) – and attending events as required by the syllabus can be selected by each Docent based upon their own schedule.

The Reward of being a Docent:

- An ongoing relationship with the AGM
- Valuable work experience at an innovative and successful Art Gallery
- Your AGM membership will allow free access into other museums and galleries associated with the Ontario Association of Art Galleries (oaag.org)
- Building new relationships

To Become a Docent:

Download an application form at:

artgalleryofmississauga.com/opportunities.html

and email along with your resume to agm.connect@mississauga.ca with the subject: Docent Application.



ART GALLERY OF MISSISSAUGA

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