

Peer Review Process

We are introducing a new way of reviewing tours called peer review. Many members from the class of 2001 have already participated in order to help us evaluate the process before rolling it out to the rest of you. We expect everyone who is actively touring to team up with a partner and complete the process within this fiscal year (by June 30, 2010).

The peer review form is essentially a self-review that you will talk through with your partner. We have included a copy with the related email.

Here's how it works:

- Determine touring partners. Do this with someone you know, or meet someone new!
- Arrange for mutually agreeable dates and follow each others' tours.
- Go through the Gallery Tour Peer Review forms together soon after the tours (same day if possible).
- Turn in the forms to the tour office (to be reviewed by Debbi and placed in your file).

We will check off names as you complete the process, and check in with those who haven't in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask!

Debbi and Sheila

Comments from docents who have completed peer review:

“When you first mentioned the peer reviews, my initial concern was that docents might be uncomfortable giving honest feedback of their peers' tours, but I'm happy to report that was not a problem! I received a very conscientious, honest yet sensitive review from my peer and I believe I responded in kind. It was comfortable and very helpful to sit down together immediately after our tours to share our comments with each other—what worked as well as what didn't! Thumbs up for peer reviews!”

“The emphasis was always on the positive. It is amazing what the observer may notice that the tour-giver may not! The process is very much like peer observations when I worked in public schools. With the face to face feedback time, the process always helped me feel good about my strengths and helped me build new awarenesses about my teaching strategies and style. . . . The process was not intimidating and I welcomed the opportunity to visit with a peer within a structured protocol.”

“I learned a lot from observing another docent but also felt validated as regards my own tour. We did have a useful conversation after the meeting. . . . I would be willing to do this every year.”