

# These Days Are For *YOU*, Docents!



*Accomplish things together  
that you could not possibly do alone*

Docents volunteer thousands of hours to share knowledge with the community. In many ways, we interact with schools, teachers, students and the public more than the staff or other volunteer councils within any individual facility. The model of OCDL demonstrates the benefits of collaboration by providing annual events with the focus on three goals:

- **Docent Education**
- **Docent Interaction**
- **Showcase Host Organizations**

Future comprehensive networks will enhance our community and maximize our public roles.

*Establish or join a docent league in your  
community.*

*You'll be glad you did!*



## Mission Statement:

“The Orange County  
Docent League  
is a forum in which  
docents throughout  
the community  
share ideas and learn  
from one another”

The league provides the  
network that is a focus for  
docent activities.

  
Established May 1999

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## Orange County Docent League (OCDL)

Orange County Docent League  
Arts Orange County  
3750 South Susan Street, Suite 200  
Santa Ana, California 92704

Phone: 949-551-5626  
Fax: 949-551-5626  
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## Orange County Docent League (OCDL)

A Regional  
Docent  
Organization



Sharing Ideas and  
Learning From One  
Another

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We provide a forum to enable non-profit organizations to host annual events which are planned, held and hosted by volunteer/docent groups. These league seminars begin at 9:30 am and run until approximately 2:00 pm and offer docents opportunities to learn additional techniques to reach their audiences. The program is conceived and presented by the hosting organization, with assistance from the OCDL Steering Committee. They generally encompass continental breakfast, speakers, luncheon, break-out and/or panel discussions.

The OCDL is guided by a volunteer Steering Committee (SC) consisting of officers and representatives from member organizations. The SC has the purpose of fulfilling the mission of the OCDL by establishing and maintaining formats by which future events can occur.

Advantages for local organizations to join the OCDL league include participation in the events, advance notice of upcoming events, discounted admission to the events, and enhanced communications through the OCDL website. The website provides an overview of OCDL goals, a calendar of events, a listing of member organizations, and an open message board. It also links directly with the member organization web addresses for immediate information about home organizations.



## Our Background

Orange County, established in 1889, is located in Southern California. It is south of Los Angeles and north of San Diego. Orange County is one of the most culturally diverse areas in the country.

In May of 1999 a small group of Orange County docents from the *Bowers Museum of Cultural Art*, organized a meeting to determine if there was enough interest to warrant establishing a "docent league of our own". The interest was overwhelming. The Orange County Docent League was launched. The events would be affordable and educational for large and small diverse docent/volunteer groups. Since that time, the OCDL's events have been sold out, with attendance at times reaching over 175. **The member organizations represent arts, sciences, history, and naturalists groups within Orange County and neighboring counties.** OCDL has grown from five member organizations to 28. Each event provides opportunities to gain knowledge and more members. The interactions at these events is intended to break barriers between professional staff and volunteers, foster cooperation rather than competition among local venues, and result in heightened energy for docents through the sharing of successes and failures.

**Docent dedication to voluntarily learn and share is inspirational**

## How Do You Establish Your Own League and Find Each Other?

1. Establish a database of local volunteer organizations.
2. Develop a steering committee and operating manual to establish guidelines for standards of events.
3. Create a Mission Statement to focus the league.
4. Understand the importance of surveys for establishing goals and focus of events.
5. Develop a web site to enhance communication by linking organizations



For information on how to obtain a "How to Host an Event" booklet, contact the OCDL.

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