

Norwalk WPA Federal Art Project Docent Program
Norwalk Arts Commission
City of Norwalk
Attn. K. Hebert
125 East Ave.
Norwalk CT 06851
Email: susanwallerstein@gmail.com



Background:

Although Norwalk has one of the largest restored collections of WPA murals in the country, there are limited opportunities for the community to learn about the collection and appreciate what is often described as a hidden treasure. Artists employed by the Federal Art Project (FAP) during the Great Depression, created 46 murals, 31 of which are located at Norwalk City Hall. The remaining murals are located at the Norwalk Transit District, Norwalk Community College, the Maritime Aquarium, Ben Franklin School, and the Norwalk, South Norwalk and Rowayton Public Libraries.

The goal of the Norwalk Arts Commission is to expand access and increase awareness of Norwalk's WPA murals through innovative strategies that engage the community and enhance civic pride.

What are the benefits of becoming a WPA docent?

- By joining the WPA docent team you will share your love of lifelong learning and support the efforts of the Arts and Historical Commissions to increase awareness and appreciation of the murals.
- You will expand your knowledge of art, art history, American history and culture through in-depth training.
- You will also take responsibility for your continued growth and develop and enhance your public speaking and customer service skills.
- You will receive a docent card, which will often allow you to visit participating area museums at discounted rates.

What will you do?

- Conduct at least one tour in June 2014 for the public at-large and/or a select group of "Norwalk Notables."
- Provide visitors with accurate, interesting and pertinent information about the murals in an engaging, timely and articulate manner.
- Create a positive learning environment for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

What qualifications will you need?

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work well with diverse audiences.
- Interest in art and history.
- Willingness to learn how to engage visitors through inquiry and object based learning strategies.
- Flexibility, punctuality and responsibility.
- Willingness and ability to communicate using email and access resources using the Internet.
- Able to stand/walk for at least 90 minutes.

How do I become a docent?

- Complete the docent application (attached).
- Participate in a short interview following the recruitment/orientation session Wednesday March 26, 2014 from 10:00 - 11:30 am at Norwalk City Hall.
- Attend all five training sessions at Norwalk City Hall, Wednesdays 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2014 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm,

Note: A docent background check may be required in the future for school tours.

Norwalk WPA Federal Art Project Docent Program Application
Norwalk Arts Commission
City of Norwalk
125 East Ave. Norwalk CT 06851



Please email completed application to:
susanwallerstein@gmail.com

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Please list past experiences (employment and/or community activities, volunteer work), which would be relevant to becoming a docent:

Which of your areas of expertise/skills/interests relate to the docent program?

What types of audiences do you prefer to work with (i.e. children/adults)? Do you speak any languages other than English?

- I am committed to attending all five (5) docent training sessions held on Wednesdays 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, as well as an initial meeting on Wednesday, 3/26/2014 from 10:00 - 11:30 am.

Please initial: _____

- I agree to provide at least one guided tour in June 2014, following the training period and to participate in future activities as available.

Please initial: _____

- I understand that this document is an application only and that acceptance is conditional upon committee review.

Signed: _____