Legislative Assembly Question on notice 1755

Art Gallery of Western Australia


The Voluntary Gallery Guides (VGGs) are an important and vital part of our Visitor Experience Team and provide an essential service to the Gallery and to the West Australian community. The VGGs aim to:

- Create a bridge of understanding between the Art Gallery and the general public
- Create within the Gallery a warm and inviting atmosphere that will promote a personal response from any visitor to the Collection
- Motivate visitors to look by giving them something to look for, and to respond to, in a work of art.
- Assist in the development of an understanding of the “language” of art, and the various ways in which artists may use this language.
- Stimulate the visitor and help them realise that artists make choices and decisions and are often inspired by the world around them.
- Make visits to the Gallery a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all.

The VGG Training Program aims to give volunteers the skills and competencies that will enable volunteers to become a VGG and to plan and then deliver guided tours that:

- Welcome visitors to the Gallery and establish expectations of the tour (interactions & behaviours)
- Use different presentation strategies and delivery methods that suit the different ages and learning needs of different audience groups
- Use a variety of communication techniques to establish the theme and key concepts of the tour, maintain audience interest and encourage group participation by asking questions and acknowledging comments and questions from the audience
- Help the group look closely at works of art that are appropriate to the topic of the tour and present information that is accurate and well researched in a logical, coherent and interesting way.
- Use arts language regularly and at a level appropriate to the group
- Give a closing summary that reinforces the themes and concepts discussed

A list of the training session topics is outlined below:

1. Welcome and Introduction to the Gallery and the Programme.
2. How to use the STICI Visual Analysis Framework to talk about art and encourage visual awareness.
3. How to plan a tour (I)
4. How to plan a tour (II) & Meet your Mentor
5. How to use arts language & questioning techniques while guiding students
6. Tour Planning & Guiding Techniques for student groups: Foundation – Year 2
7. Tour Planning & Guiding Techniques for student groups: Years 3-6
8. How to use select & works of art effectively and appropriately
9. Guiding Indigenous Art & Inclusive Language
10. Tour Planning & Guiding Techniques for student groups: Years 7 – 10
11. How to use ‘Feldman’s’ & ‘Marsh’s’ Analysis Frameworks to talk about art with Year 7 – 10 student groups
12. Guiding Contemporary Art
14. Tour Planning & Guiding techniques for student groups: Yr. 11 & 12
15. How to use ‘The Frames’ Guiding techniques: Selecting artworks for Years 11 & 12
16. How to plan a tour - review
17. How to care for the State Art Collection while Guiding