Mingei International Museum

Community Means You

Become a Mingei Docent Ambassador

Being a Mingei Docent Ambassador is a volunteer opportunity for those interested in sharing their love of art and culture with our diverse audiences while developing public communication and facilitation skills. Mingei Docent Ambassadors are a catalyst to discovery, helping visitors to develop a deeper understanding of folk art, craft and design and how these are relevant to their lives through guided tours and conversation.

Through our training, you will explore how to ask questions that spark curiosity, plan age-appropriate tours and empower others to tell their own stories through art. Mingei Docent Ambassadors are volunteers interested in connecting with like-minded art lovers, growing their resumes, attending Mingei events, and become part of the Mingei community.

Mingei Docent Ambassadors are required to volunteer for two hours per month, with a one-year commitment. New Docent Ambassador training will take place over three sessions from 10am–1pm on September 30, October 7 and October 14.

What it takes to be a Mingei Docent Ambassador

• A commitment to and enthusiasm for art, accessibility and equity
• An understanding of Mingei International Museum’s mission
• Ability to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours per month (weekdays, weeknights and/or weekends available)
• Comfortable speaking in front of groups of kids and adults
• Fluency in Spanish a plus

Mingei Docent Ambassadors receive:

• A complimentary Independent-level Museum membership
• Free admission, program discounts and event invitations for one adult 18 and over
• Shop Mingei, ARTIFACT and CRAFT CAFÉ discounts
• Two one-time use guest passes
• Access to Mingei events including exclusive exhibition openings, excursions and lectures
Common Questions

Should I have an art history background to become a Docent Ambassador?
No, we don’t require any specific background or education. We welcome all ages over 18 and experience levels.

Is it possible to work and/or go to school and still be a Docent Ambassador?
Absolutely! Though many tours are scheduled during traditional work and school hours, we also have a need for Docent Ambassadors on the weekends as well as in the evenings (the Museum is open until 8pm on Thursdays and Fridays and 10am–5pm on the weekends). We welcome and encourage students and individuals who work to apply.

Is this a paid position?
Being a Docent Ambassador is a volunteer role and an excellent way to also meet and connect with likeminded arts lovers, grow your resume, attend Mingei events and become part of Mingei’s distinctive and varied community.

What is the training like?
We now offer a condensed and robust training to begin touring faster. The trainings take place over three Fridays to be more accommodating.

How long is a typical tour?
Tours are generally 45 minutes to one hour long.

How many hours am I required to volunteer?
Docent Ambassadors are asked to complete a minimum of 2 hours per month. We ask new Docent Ambassadors to commit to one year of service.

What are the tours like?
At Mingei, we utilize inquiry-based strategies around art objects to spark conversation and curiosity with our visitors. There is no script-reading or lecturing.

How many people would I be touring?
Docent Ambassadors typically tour groups of 10 or less.

What kinds of tours would I be doing?
That is up to you! We offer varied touring opportunities from organized school groups during the week to drop-in public tours on the weekends.

Is there a cost?
There is no cost to be a Docent Ambassador. New Docent Ambassadors are gifted a one-year complimentary Independent-level membership.

Have more questions?
Join us for a virtual information session on Thursday, August 25 at 10:30am
Email Shannon Foley, Senior Manager of Education, at sfoley@mingei.org for Zoom link.

Apply
To apply, visit mingei.org/donate/volunteer

Applications close on Monday, September 5.