

Mingei International Museum

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 conversations.

Through our training, you will learn how to ask questions that spark curiosity, plan age-appropriate student and adult tours, and empower our visitors to tell their own stories through art. Mingei Docent Ambassadors are volunteers interested in connecting with like-minded arts and culture lovers, gaining education experience, attending Mingei events, and becoming part of the Mingei community.

Who can be a Mingei Docent Ambassador?

We're looking for:

- A commitment to and enthusiasm for art, accessibility, and equity
- An understanding of what makes Mingei International Museum unique
- Ability to volunteer at least 2 hours per month
- Comfortable speaking in front of children and adults
- Fluency in languages other than English, especially Spanish, desirable
- Availability to attend four Friday training sessions:
 - August 15, 10am–1pm
 - August 22, 10am–1pm
 - September 5, 9am–12pm
 - September 12, 10am–1pm



Benefits of being a Docent Ambassador

- Receive a one-year complimentary Independent-level Museum membership. This includes:
 - Free admission, program discounts, and event invitations
 - Shop Mingei, ARTIFACT, and CRAFT CAFÉ discounts
 - Two one-time-use guest passes
 - Access to Mingei events including exclusive exhibition openings, excursions, and programs
- Lead rewarding experiences with children, college students, adults, and community members while expanding your understanding of art and being challenged by new ideas.
- Meet monthly with the entire Docent Ambassador Corps to make new friends and connections while deepening your love and appreciation for folk art, craft, and design through continued docent learning.

Common Questions

Do I need a specific background to become a Mingei Docent Ambassador?

Mingei is seeking friendly, outgoing people with an enthusiasm for the arts. There is no specific background or education required. We welcome all experience levels and anyone over 18 years old.

Is it possible to work and/or go to school and still be a Docent Ambassador?

Absolutely! Though many student and adult tours are scheduled during traditional work and school hours, we still have touring opportunities on the weekends and occasional evenings. We welcome and encourage students and folks who work to apply.

Is this a paid position?

This is a volunteer role and an excellent way to meet and connect with like-minded arts and culture lovers and become a part of Mingei's community.

What is the training like?

Training takes place over four Fridays: August 15 and August 22 (10am–1pm), September 5 (9am–12pm) and September 12 (10am–1pm). Training focuses on four areas:

- Engagement and conversation strategies to empower visitors and demystify art
- Approaching docenting through the lens of accessibility and equity
- Communication facilitation for various age groups
- Practice tours and shadowing

Once training is completed, what kind of time commitment is expected of the Docent Ambassador?

Docent Ambassadors are required to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours per month. Monthly Docent Ambassador Corp meeting attendance is encouraged but not required. New Docent Ambassadors are asked to make a one-year commitment.

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 an information session on Zoom Wednesday, June 25 at 10am. Email Shannon Foley, Senior Manager of Education, at sfoley@mingei.org to RSVP.

Apply

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



Applications open on Monday, June 16 and close on Friday, July 18.

