Docent Training Class starting in September of 2009
At the Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI ----- For over 30 years, Kresge Art Museum docents have provided school children, MSU students, visitors and senior centers with docent-led tours. In September of 2009, KAM will offer a training class for those who would like to become docents at the current museum and the new Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, slated to open in 2012.

“When I attended my first docent meeting, I felt like I had found a home with kindred spirits. The Kresge docents are a group of volunteers who simply love art and love learning. Through the docent program I have grown as an individual because I have learned so much about art, art history and the Kresge collection.

Sharing the Kresge collection with visitors, mostly children, is extremely rewarding and fun. Sharing art with children is such a wonderful way to help them expand and understand their world, and it is a privilege to be associated with Kresge Art Museum.”

- Karla Dulic, KAM Docent

The goal of the docent program is to provide visitors with exciting and engaging experiences that generate new insights and understanding of the arts. The main component of the docent program is touring school age children through the museum’s permanent collection and changing exhibits. Each year the docents tour over 2,500 k-12 students. Our program prides itself on working with schools and teachers to meet curriculum and individual learning goals.

KAM’s Community Outreach Programs
Kresge Art Museum’s docent outreach program has been flourishing for over 10 years. Senior facilities, community centers and retirement homes in the mid-Michigan area, some as far away as St. Johns and Mason, are recipients of the outreach program. From the fall of 2008 to the spring of 2009, almost 100 outreach programs were provided to the community.
The Outreach program is free of charge and consists of a group of specially trained Kresge Art Museum docents who take their knowledge of current museum exhibitions into centers that house residents who are unable to come to the museum due to physical or logistic restrictions. PowerPoint programs prepared in advance enhance the dialogue between participants and lecturer.

David Greenbaum, Docent Outreach Co-Chairperson says, “One of the goals of the program is to stimulate the viewers mind about art. In our conversations with residents, we always try to relate the art back to their experiences in their lives. Many times an exhibit or work of art will trigger a memory for them and discussions can become quite lively. “

Teaching and inspiring all ages is at the forefront of the Kresge Art Museum Docent program. If you have a passion for art, love to work with people, and want to stretch your imagination as well as the imagination of others, contact the museum for information on this unique volunteer opportunity. The docent training class is an intensive nine-month training course featuring art history and touring techniques with a special focus on the museum’s collection.

For additional information and an application form for the Kresge Art Museum Docent Training Program, please contact Cari Wolfe, Assistant Education Curator at 517/353-9834 or wolfeca1@msu.edu.