

Westport Arts Advisory Meeting (WAAC) Meeting: Tuesday,  
November 8, 2016

Meeting called to order: 12:00pm

Attending: Miggs Burroughs, Lee Goldstein, Kathie Bennowitz, Sandy Lefkowitz, Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, Nancy Diamond, Kelle Ruden,

1. Introduction and welcome: Wendy Morgan-Hunter, singer, voice teacher, arts patron, newly appointed Committee Member .

2. TEA Talk, Sunday, October 23, 2016 Debriefing: There was consensus that the event was special. The participants engaged a crowd of over 100 people. The program was an impressive mix of academic substance, personal exploration, and entertainment. The content relevant to Artists in the community was considered to be a significant factor in the attraction of an intergenerational audience.

There were no complaints that anyone reported!

- Success was attributed to: collaboration with the Westport Library; excellent social media and online PR, (Dan Woog, Writers Studio, and FC Buzz); board outreach, and signage. Linkage to Event Brite allowed us to register those who would be attending and we had at least 50 responses that represented a minimum of 1 ticket each.
- Lunch for the participants and tech and custodial staff was a definite plus. It created a communal feeling.
- Eric, Miggs, and Kelle, were able to capture at least 70 names and 60 emails which will be the beginning of an active contact list. A thank you for attending will be sent out in the near future. It will include a request for ideas for future talks and the date of our next talk which is Sunday, October 22, 2017.
- Areas to be addressed for future talks:
- There were 100 printed programs and we should have had at least 150.

- Time limit of 1 ½ hours including the Q & A should be aimed for and the participants in each talk need to be made aware of their time constraints and held to them. Q& A needed to be cut short; we also should have some prearranged questions in case we do not have enough initial audience participation.
- Each of the participants in a talk should be advised to spend time before hand getting to know each other to provide the best possible conversation. The talks worked best where this was evident.
- PR interviews should be linked to our website.
- The tech check for 12:30 pm instead of noon.
- More of the WAAC Committee should be in attendance at the reception after the talk held at The Westport Historical Society.

3. Let's Connect Meeting, Thursday, October 6, 2016 WAAC event hosted by Westport Library and facilitated by Ryan Ordinak was attended by Arts and Cultural organizations in Westport. The response was positive. The summaries produced need to be reviewed and a report will be sent to all of the participants. This meet and greet event was a positive introduction to future collaborations between organizations and an opportunity to address understand the needs of the various organizations.

- Strategies for moving forward: WAAC will hold a subcommittee meeting to address the way in which we can establish Social Media can serve all of the organization.
- The December WAAC meeting will be devoted to an exploration of the findings of the subcommittee.
- WAAC will explore the next step for Let's Connect

4. Kathie gave a report on the state of the Art Collections that are part of the library collection and WESTPAC. WAAC has been serving in an invited advisory capacity when needed.

- A Steven Dohanos painting hanging in the office of The First Selectman, "The Band Played On," with the financial assistance of WAAC, was reappraised at \$145,000. Appraisal steps were taken to insure that the painting was properly protected.
- The Dohanos painting will be on loan to the Staples High School Players for their performance of "Music Man".

- Framed posters of Painting will be sold as a fund-raiser benefitting the Westport Historical Society, the Staples Music Parents Friends Association, and WESTPAC.
- “Pageant of Juvenile Literature” by Robert Lambdin, a mural belonging to the Town that is housed in the Library will need to be moved during the Library’s renovation. Negotiations have taken place to have the mural moved to the Slater Museum in Norwich Free Academy. There is not facility in town that can house this.
- The tile wall in the Library will be removed. It is not currently removable as a unit and is a costly project paid for by the Library; it will be reinstalled as a unit, giving it the flexibility of being moved easily if the need should ever arise again.
- The library is identifying a person to work with the Permanent Art Collection. The entire library connection will be reappraised.

5. Richard presented the Space-use summit being held on Saturday, November 12, from 9:30am – 4:30pm at the Bijou theater in Bridgeport. The subject is the “Need for Creative Spaces in the Creative Economy”. The bijou is currently an empty space that has great potential for organizations needing space.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted:

Sandy Lefkowitz

Westport Arts Advisory Committee