

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Town Hall, room 309

Attending: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, Lee Goldstein and Elizabeth Strick.

Absent: Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Wendy Morgan-Hunter, Sandy Lefkowitz, Deirdre Price, Kellie Ruden, and Carol Schweid

AGENDA:

1. TEA Talk

Change of date for TEA Talk to October 29th.

Nancy will check with the library to make sure there is no conflict.

Event working title, **Art and Social Protest**

Possible speaker for event are;

- Fiona Garland, teacher and art lecturer, could introduce the program by giving an overview of how art from the Renaissance to the present day has reflected social protest.
- Darcy Hicks, social advocate, excellent speaker.
- Melissa Kane, DTC chairwomen, Staples grad.

Suggested as part of the program, a 10-minute performance from "Folsettos" Nancy and Carole will speak with David Roth.

Pop music with video, and Folk music. Richard will speak with FTC and song writer Robin Batteau. Young song writers like Drew Angus were discussed. Also need to find out what students are listening to. A number of big rock bands played at Staples in the 70's. Fred Kanter is making a film about those performances, Miggs will get more information.

2. Cultural Arts update

Donations have dropped significantly for the Cultural Arts enrichment in the schools.

To help pay for this program, CA is exploring sending permission slips home with elementary school student, with return addressed envelope, requesting \$20 for the cultural arts programs. This fee will help to cover this twice yearly "In school field trip" enrichment program run by the Cultural Arts. Hoping to do this in the Fall.

3. Meeting with Staples

Kathy reported that many Staples High School students are finding it difficult to manage in the present climate. Students are feeling a lack of tolerance and polarization. Staples is working hard to combat this and have been using examples from the Art collection as a teaching tool, as well as "Soundings" the schools literary magazine. Kathy and Lee will be talking with faculty to

see if there is a way to engage the students at TEA Talk. Possible having a couple of students speak as part of the event.

Teachers are to be sent the link to “WAAC Lets Connect” to be able to access Town resources in the Arts.

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 12 NOON, ROOM 309

Meeting adjourned 1:15 pm

Elizabeth Strick
Secretary