

Westport ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Town Hall, room 209

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

THE NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018, TOWN HALL, ROOM 309 AT 12 NOON

Present: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Sandy Lefkowitz, Wendy Morgan-Hunter, Deirdre Price, Kelle Ruden, Carole Schweid.

Absent: John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Elizabeth Strick

Guest: Mark Yurkiw

AGENDA:

1. Otocast update
2. Conversation Bench
3. WestPAC
4. Other business

Added Agenda Item: Financial Update

1) FINANCIAL UPDATE:

The WAAC balance is \$12,000.

Projected expenses before year's end:

Otocast- \$3-5,000.

It was voted to make an additional payment to Otocast Independent Contractor Judith Bacal for hours worked. She will receive \$5000 total.

Additional expenses projected:

Poet Laureate Search Fund: Kelle to research possible costs and bring information to the June meeting.

Conversation Bench Project

WSPAC: Possible rollover for conservation and curriculum project with the schools.

The Data Base Manager (Tiffany) projects 200 hours of work at \$6000. A portion of this will be paid by Friends of WSPAC and with funds raised at the June 7 Gala.

\$1500 of each year's budget goes to WestPAC maintenance and expenses.

Request to continue with Data Base Manager / Admin- additional \$1500 requested by Kathie Bennewitz. K. Bennewitz to follow up regarding the timing of an updated database.

Nancy Diamond proposed a vote, all in favor: Unanimous.

2) TEA TALK

Past TEA Talk participant, Murk Yurkiw presented his proposal related to the topic of a generational digital divide focusing on three areas:

Creation, Sharing and Use of Art

A discussion followed expanding on these topics to include differences in how information is absorbed, the difference between learning and doing,

K. Bennewitz compared the current revolution in learning to advances made during the Victorian era.

M. Yurkiw noted: "Learning through inspiration allows access."

It was noted that WAAC members should begin brainstorming about appropriate participants. Dates under consideration for the event, October 21 or 28. A debate format was suggested- highlighting Creation and sharing- the differences between Digital and non-digital experiences. Could be 3 categories Visual, Musical and Performing Arts.

An emcee was suggested and the need for a headliner and a Horizon Award nominee.

October 21 and 28 continue to be held at Town Hall.

3) OTOCAST Update:

A working group meeting to be held 3-5pm in room 102, a sub committee meeting to be held May 16 at 9am.

Sponsorship letter to be created- S. Lefkowitz volunteered to help with this.

Participants in Place: Westport Arts Center, Historical Society, Library, Levitt Pavilion, and Earthplace. Still pending: Playhouse- K. Ruden to follow up.

Editorial Grouping of photos suggested.

4. Conversation Bench

The Westport Arts Center is on board as the partner for the Conversation Bench Project and will curate an exhibit at their facility. The projected date is February 2019 for 2 weeks.

The Categories for benches will be decided (for example: Historical, Collaborative, Visionary).

A Bench Project Committee was formed consisting of: Nancy Diamond, Frederic Chiu, Kathie Bennewitz and Kelle Ruden. A meeting date will be determined.

5. Additional Business

N. Diamond asked members to support fellow arts community Norwalk via their ext. Festival, scheduled for June 16. Entry is \$25.

Friends of the WSPAC will hold a fundraiser on June 7 at Rive Bistro.

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Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm

Kelle Ruden
Filling in for Secretary Elizabeth Strick.