

TO: WAAC
FROM: Conversation Bench Subcommittee (Nancy, Elizabeth, Kathie, Frederic, Kelle)
DATE: June 11, 2018
RE: Descriptions for review and comments before sending to WAC

The Conversation Bench:

- Provides a creative way to increase connectivity and encourage civility in our community
- Encourages Westporters to: listen and increase engagement with each other, challenge perceptions and assumptions, embrace diversity and accept differences
- With perhaps more than one built, will move around town, providing varying locations for community programming addressing relevant issues

A collaboration with WAC incorporates WAAC's mission to:

- Enhance the visibility of the arts in our community
- Serve as a bridge between the arts and education
- Encourage cohesiveness among artists, arts and cultural organizations and the general public
- Strengthen the role the arts play in the lives of Westport residents
- Preserve Westport's artistic heritage
- Perpetuate Westport as a thriving center for artistic and cultural activity

Criteria suggestions for Design Competition at WAC February 2019:

- Invite Westport/Weston artists, designers and architects
- WAC is exhibition curator, but selection committee should include reps from WAC, WAAC, furniture store, architect, empathetic community builder with aesthetic understanding (ie Beechwood); Andrew Bentley
- Allow Student entries
- Determine money available to design/build winning bench; consult with DWR for parameters

Possible awards:

- 1st prize gets built
- Fanciful art becomes part of the Town collection