

**WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE [WAAC]
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2019, at 12 noon**

Attending: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Miggs Burroughs, Kathie Bennewitz, Lee Goldstein, Kelle Ruden, Eric Chiang, Elizabeth Strick.

Absent: John Dodig, Deirdre Price, Wendy Morgan-Hunter, Frederic Chiu, Sandy Lefkowitz, Carole Schweid.

Guest: Judith Bacal

1. Poet Laureate

Kelle has met with the Assistant Superintendent of schools, Dr Anthony Buro, and Jennifer Bangser, Director of Strategic Community Partnerships at the Library. They are both onboard as members of the selection committee and as Westport Schools liaison and Westport Library liaison [joining Kelle and Miggs Burroughs WAA and Liz Milwe, Community liaison]. A meeting will be scheduled the week of March 26 to determine Poet Laureate job responsibilities and application.

2. Otocast

Judith reported that Kathie and Nancy have been working on copy which is close to finished. Some audio has been received along with images of art work from the Schools/Town collection. The Natural Beauty Tour will focus on art work of Compo Beach, Longshore, Old Mill Pond and the Aspetuck Land Trust. Kelle suggested that Grace Salmon Park which is maintained by the Westport Garden Club be included. Nash's Pond will also be mentioned.

Time line for Otocast completion dates

March 12 – interviews complete

March 12 – 17 Scripts reviewed and edited

March 18 Scripts returned to interviewers

March 22-25 FINAL Audio recordings due to Judith

March 25 All FINAL content due

March 25 – 29 All Content uploaded

April 1-5 Live app reviewed

April 8 -12 Revised

All of the above to be completed for the Maker Faire on Saturday, April 27th

Otocast bookmarks are needed to handout at the Maker Faire and at the Library Book sale. Deidre is working on design which will include QR code. Richard to speak with Mark Mathias about leaving information. Wakeman Town Farm and the Nature Center will have tables at these two events. It is hoped Otocast information could be placed on these tables.

3. WestPAC

Kathie reported on the art work offered to the collection which included a number of shadow boxes from the Einsel estate, which will be hung at the Senior Center. Howard Aibel bequest includes work by Marleen Siff, Sophie Achison, Patsy Pelton, Jak Kovatch and Leonard Everett Fisher. Ann Chernow has also donated some of her work. All work has been accepted on temporary loan and will be presented to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Education for approval. A motion was made by Lee Goldberg to approve the donations, and seconded by Eric Chang; all were in favor.

4. Member News

Elizabeth reported that WAC has signed a 15-year lease with option to renew, for their new home at 19 Newtown Turnpike. The 6-acre property is partly in Norwalk and partly in Westport. WAC will move out of their current home on Riverside Avenue at the end of June; an opening at their new home is scheduled for early September.

Lee reported on Coleytown School. The School will be opened Sept 2020.

Library to re-open on June 23 and will include the Sheffer Gallery for changing exhibitions.

“One River” a new art school is opening in Town at the site of the former Bertucci’s Restaurant at Exit 18 on the Post Road. A for-profit franchise organization, it will offer children and adults a broad range of classes.

The Cultural Alliance will hold a getting to know you gathering tonight, March 12th, at the Westport Arts Center from 5:30 – 7:30pm. All are welcome.

The next Pop Up Show is March 20th, in the Playhouse Barn from 6 – 8pm

5. Tete a Tete

The exhibition opened at the Westport Arts Center Friday, March 8th and was well attended. One of the jurors of the exhibition, John Edelman, [Design Within Reach] recognized the work of three artists in the categories, Fantastical, Functional, Collaborative. Nancy was thanked for all her work in making the exhibition happen along with Amanda and the Cultural Alliance.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS, TUESDAY APRIL 9, 2019 AT 12 NOON, ROOM 212D

THE CULTURAL ALLIANCE WILL BE HOLDING ITS “ARTS COUNCIL” MEETING ALSO ON APRIL 9TH IN TOWN HALL, ROOM 307 – 309, FROM 1 – 3PM. ALL ARE WELCOME

Meeting Adjourned, 1:20pm

Elizabeth Strick

Secretary