

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE [WAAC]
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 12 noon

Attending: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Deirdre Kelly, Wendy Morgan-Hunter, Deirdre Price, Kelle Ruden, Elizabeth Strick.

Absent: Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Sandy Lefkowitz, Carole Schweid, Tom Scavone, Diane Lowman.

Nancy welcomed new member Deirdre Kelly.

1. Poet Laureate,

Diane Lowman was unable to join us. Kelle reported that she would be present at are next meeting. Diane will be at the Library’s “Story Fest” on September 26th., and at the opening of the “Let’s Dance” exhibition. Diana hopes to work with the schools. and with the Town Art Collection.

2. Vote of approval of Town Art collection and Town Management Guidelines. Kathie.

The Westport Public Arts Collections Committee, is a subcommittee of the Westport Arts Advisory committee, is designated to serve as steward of the approximately 1,900 art works in the Westport Public Art Collection [WestPAC] by the First Selectman, Westport Public Schools Superintendent, and the Board of Education. The WestPAC Committee is charged with installation and interpretation of art works, conservation and repair, and integration of art works into the school’s curriculum. Recommending donated works for accession, maintaining on-line access to collection, and the safe keeping of works in storage.

Town curator Kathie Bennewitz presented for the committee:

- 1] the FY19 and FY18 Reports [FY2016 submitted in 2017], with Friends of WestPAC’s financial statements of activity and
- 2] the WestPAC Collection Management Guidelines [GMC], as revised with pending last edits from the town attorney, and
- 3]Town of Westport Art Policy

These will be submitted to the WPS Superintendent BOE, and Town of Westport Board of Selectmen.

The Committee activities are subject to annual reporting for its appointed term of service [July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019 and periodic renewal: The Committee’s is pursuing a renewed term as steward of the collection with WPS and Town effective July 1, 2019.

Nancy Diamond made a motion to approve the continued stewardship of the WestPAC Committee; Wendy Morgan-Hunter so moved, seconded by Miggs Burroughs, all were in favor.

Nancy Diamond made a motion to approve the WestPAC Collection Management Guidelines with the town attorney edits, Richard Epstein so moved, seconded by John Dodig, all in favor.

Nancy Diamond made a motion to approve the new Town Art Policy drafted by the Town Attorney, Wend Morgan-Hunter so moved, seconded by Miggs Burroughs, all in favor.

3. Otocast Update.

The Mid-Fairfield Board of Realtors has invited WAAC to present Otocast at their next meeting, on September 20th at 10am. We need a volunteer to help.

Kathie will give a 30-minute talk featuring Otocast at the September Ys Men's meeting.

Otocast, book marks will be in all gift bags at the Library's "Story Fest" on September 27.

Otocast coasters will be placed at all locations during the Chamber of Commerce "Restaurant Week".

A date to be set for a presentation of Otocast at the Senior Center.

An Otocast Marketing Committee meeting date still to be set. Nancy suggested that the WAAC host a lunch for all the participants who helped and were recorded on the Otocast app as a token of appreciation and a way for the finished product to be presented. The "Lets Connect" group of associated non-profits is to be included, or a second meeting may be set up. The Library was suggested for the launch, and will include a screening of the Otocast app. Kelle will check to see if there is an available date in early November.

Deirdre Price reported that Amanda would be sending updated pictures of the Westport Arts Center as it transforms into MoCA Westport, for the Otocast app. The descriptions of the Levitt Pavilion and the Library also need to be updated.

4. TEA Talk

Discussion and approval on the wording of the invitation was approved. Miggs will make corrections and send to Eric for e-mail distribution of a "Save the Date" listing.

TEA Talk presentation. "Breaking Barriers through the Arts"

Opening remarks, Nancy or Richard

First Selectman, Jim Marpe

Introduction by, Angie Durrell, Musician and Social Entrepreneur. 10 minutes.

Three 15-minute conversations,

1. Filmmaker Chris Bolan and Producer Wendy Morgan Hunter
2. Artist Ann Chernow and Noah Fox [Name was changed from Steinman to Fox because of marriage]
3. Innovator Jeanine Esposito and singer Tiffany Jackson. Frederic Chiu will accompany on piano

Panel Discussion, concluding remarks, and invitation to refreshments in lobby. Richard or Nancy

Ann needs help walking. She will wait in the wings and Noah and John will help her on and off the stage. We will double-check the condition of the elevators in Town Hall that are being repaired.

We will ask Jim Marpe if a proclamation is necessary, and will guide him in his remarks. Speech to include possible links to the suffragette movement and Rosie O'Neal. Deirdre Kelly and Kathie will work on this.

Horizon Award will go to Noah Fox. Need to find a product for presentation

Sandy, will confirm sound and video for Town Hall, also a standing banner needed for the entrance to Town Hall.

We will use an Otocast promotion on screen before the program starts.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 12 NOON, ROOM 212D

Elizabeth Strick
Secretary