

**WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**  
**12 noon, Town of Westport recorded Zoom call.**

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Diane Lowman, Deirdre Kelly, Deirdre Price, Carole Schweid, Elizabeth Strick.

**Not participating:** Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Doug Tirolo

Nancy Diamond opened the meeting at 12:02pm.

**1. Otocast**

Richard, Nancy, and Kathie met with Sarah Harris, Daryll De Makes, the Town's e-media consultants, and intern Spencer Yim. The purpose of the meeting, to integrate or transform the Otocast app into a more comprehensive, custom branded app, along with web access, under a title such as "Discover Westport".

Discussion ensued about the target audience of the transformed app, which was developed specifically around Arts and culture, and whether we could integrate with a state-wide site.

A comparison of alternatives to Otocast were presented by DeMakes and Yim and shared with the committee. The WAAC's funding will not be sufficient to cover the needed expense to expand Otocast. A facilitator will be needed to up-date and manage the app. Partnerships with other organizations in Westport such as the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Merchants, and Real Estate brokers may help to broaden the use and utility of the integrated app.

Richard and Nancy will approach Jim Marpe and Sarah Harris about a cultural tour of the Town. Nancy will ask Eric to head a committee to move the project forward, Kathie, Dierdre, and Lee have offered to help. Darrell 's input will also be sort.

**2. "Rocks Paper Scissors"** sculpture was removed to storage while awaiting approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The sculpture is to be installed next to the Library. The cost for storage removal and installation is \$9,000. Friends of Westport Public Art Collection and Ann Sheffer have contributed to cover the costs.

Proposed accession of three works of art to the Westport Public Art Collection, and were presented to the Arts Advisory Committee, and WestPAC committee for approval .They are; Walter Einsel, "*Portrait of Naiad Einsel*", 1947 oil on canvas  
Alexander Calder, "*Abe Ribicoff*", 1974 [CT gubernatorial campaign poster] lithograph

Ann Chernow, *"Svengali,"* 1968. A 2019 [Portrait of Burt Chernow] digital lithograph.  
Nancy asked for a motion to except the three works, John Dodig seconded, all agreed.

Westport Public Art Collection will loan a Calder lithograph to MoCA Westport for its exhibition  
"World Peace", which opens October 8<sup>th</sup> and runs through January 17, 2021.

Alexander Calder, "Abe Ribicoff's 1974 [reelection campaign poster for Governor of CT]

### **3. Haiku Trail**

Diane printed 20 Haiku signs which were on view in the Downtown walking areas over the summer. They will be picked up in the next few days and placed in other locations in Town.

### **4. Budget Report**

The budget from the Town this coming year has been reduced. Going forward there will not be the possibility of rolling over unused funds from one year to the next. Work is continuing on migrating data from the Westport Public Art Collections, Omega database, to CT Collections, an open source, cloud-based collection management system run by the Connecticut League of History Organizations {CLHO}. The yearly subscription fee is being covered by Friends of WestPAC along with other related data cleanup expenses. Estimates of \$4,000 were presented to complete the data migration. A motion to have WAAC allocate \$1,500 toward that was agreed. The additional costs of \$2,500 will be raised at least in part by Friends of WestPAC.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13  
AT 12 NOON**

Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee.

