

**WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**  
**12 noon, Town of Westport recorded Zoom Call**

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Diane Lowman, Charles Rosoff, Kimberly Wiison.  
Ex-officio: Steve Zimmerman

**Absent:** Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Jerri Graham, Doug Tirola,

**Guests:** Wendy Batteau, Harris Falk. WestPAC Chair, Randa Trivosonno

Nancy opened the meeting by welcoming new Board member, Kimberly Wilson, and recommending that Westport Schools K-12 Arts Coordinator, Steve Zimmerman and WestPAC Chair Randa Trivosonno join WAAC as ex-officio, non-voting members.

**2. Lawn signs: Steve and Diane**

Diane has reviewed Haiku submissions from the High School. She will review elementary school submissions this week. Chosen work will be sent to Miggs to reproduce for the 25 lawn signs paid for by WAAC. The schools will print 25 more duplicate signs. A tag line across the bottom along with a Q-code will be put on each sign to credit WAAC and the schools. The signs will be posted on the Staples web site on April 1<sup>st</sup> for one week. They will then be then moved by the PTA to the next school for a week's viewing. 25 signs will be put around town.

**1. Art-subcommittee:**

Kathie and Nancy will meet with photographer Adger Cowans this weekend. Kathie spoke with Charles Joyner, who attended Staples High School in the 1960's and is from North Carolina. There is the possibility of doing an exhibit of his work at the Library. Krista Forest, a local artist from Stamford, paints portraits of black women. Frederic will arrange a studio visit. Another artist under consideration to add to WestPAC is Vanessa German whose work is in major museums. It might be possible to purchase a small wall piece with the help of donations.

Nancy spoke with "Friends of WestPAC" who voted to allocate \$5,000 towards the purchase of artwork under review for the collection. WAAC voted to give Friends \$5,000 towards conservation of the collection so Friends can add an

additional \$5,000 towards art purchases. With this \$10,000, we should be able to add 3 or 4 pieces to the collection.

Nancy and Kathie reported on the gift of 25 prints [unframed lithographs and color serigraphs/ by Richard Hunt from the “Dorsky Gallery curatorial program’ via Noah Dorsky. All are signed and some are in color. Charles presented the donated work on Zoom. Also on the call was Wendy Batteau, who introduced WAAC to the Dorsey Gallery which represents Hunt’s work. This is an unconditional gift. Nancy asked for a motion to accept the acquisition of the 25 signed prints by Richard Hunt. Kimberley Wilson moved, Charles Rosoff seconded, all were in favor.

Kimberly suggested we do PR on the acquisition. Kathie would like to wait till we acquire the other work by black artists and have an exhibition of all five, and are able to tell their stories.

### **3. WAAC- Corner/Poet Laureate Diane**

WestportLocalPress has featured the WAAC-Corner on their blog in the February and March issue. Diane has written the April piece about an “egg” artist, and she is working on May. Diane would like WAAC to make social media outlets a priority.

### **4. Otocast: Richard**

We still have the data and it can be accessed on the Otocast app on the phone. There is a need to devote money from the budget to handle and update the app. Kimberly, who is on the Mid-Fairfield Board of Realtors will meet with Richard to discuss marketing. The app is a perfect opportunity for new residents in Town to learn about the community.

### **5. Report on Eric’s art at Coleytown Middle School**

Eric has loaned Coleytown Middle School a large painting which has been installed in the stairwell. It has generated publicity and is featured on the westportschools.org site.

### **6. WestPAC - FY20 annual report, chair Randa Trivosonno**

The committee has worked well and increased awareness of the collection through outreach. A video was produced on the artwork at the Senior Center with

some of the artists represented speaking about the work. It was viewed on Zoom and much appreciated. Learning galleries have been created in each school, focusing on a subject to support teachers. The learning galleries artwork will be rotated through the schools. The donated sculpture *“Rock Paper Scissors”* was placed at the entrance to the Library, and Eric Chiang’s painting was installed at Coleytown. Artwork from the collection was lent to MoCA for their *“War Peace”* exhibition and work was also lent to the Library for its exhibition *“Let’s Dance”* and to the Tracy Sugarman exhibit at Town Hall. Two Staples inters have been learning how to maintain artwork and expand the collection on social media. Richard raised the question of the art storage issue. Kathie said things are fine for now. The WestPAC committee is looking for more opportunities to hang the work and get it out of storage.

#### **6. Tracy Sugarman exhibition**

In conjunction with the current Tracy Sugarman exhibit in Town Hall focusing on his civil rights activities, the Library will host a Zoom conversation, ala TEA Talk, between Kathie and Dr Redell Hearn from the Mississippi Museum of Art. The presentation on April 6<sup>th</sup> will include songs and lyrics. Tracy’s voice will also be included. There will be a Q&A after the talk, with questions also submitted by Staples students.

**The Next Meeting of the Arts Advisory Committee is Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 12noon on Zoom**

Meeting adjourned 1:07pm

Elizabeth Strick secretary Westport Arts Advisory committee