

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday May 11, 2021
12 noon, Town of Westport recorded Zoom Call

Present: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burrows, Frederic Chiu, Jerri Graham, Diane Lowman, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Randa Trivisonno, Kimberley Wilson.

Guest: Harris Falk

Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:05pm

Friends of WestPAC, update, Randa

On May 12th and May 14th accessions to the collection will be presented at the Board of Selectman's meeting. Kathie and Nancy will present.

Inventory of art work will be checked at the elementary and middle schools in the next few weeks. Over the summer the inventory of art work in the Town public buildings, Staples High School and the storage closet will also be checked. Two interns have been selected to help and a schedule has been put in place.

It is hoped to set up an exhibition of work from the collection at the Library. In conjunction a docent will give an exhibit virtual tour.

The head of the Language department for all the schools would like the art tours to be translated into different languages.

Richard asked about the art rotation throughout the schools. The recently installed gallery rails have made it possible to move the themed art/teaching exhibits from school to school.

Update on collection, Kathie

At the BOS meeting on Wednesday May,12, Kathie and Nancy will present the large group of gifts, including artworks that are part of the WAAC nonbiased arts imitative for inclusion to the collection. They are;

Two photographs by Jerri Graham "Campaign Glow" 2020 and "Sisters" 2019 which were purchased and donated by Friends

Adger Cowans, gelatin silver print, "Three Shadows" 1968 – 1977 an iconic image was purchased by Friends and gifted to the collection.

The James Daugherty Foundation has gifted 23 works by the artist Paul Camacho. The original paintings, 24"x36" using quash, watercolor and tempera on paper and mounted on poster board. This is an unrestricted gift.

The Daugherty foundation has also donated 9 works by Liza Daugherty. This is an unrestricted gift. Two paintings and 3 works on paper will go into the collection the rest will be sold.

Nancy made a motion to accept these works, Richard Epstein so moved and Randa Trivisonno seconded all were in favor.

Flood gates project:

Steve, Kimberley, Miggs and Nancy met to discuss what should be painted on the unutilized flood gates on the alley off Main Street. The following suggestions were put forward; The Colonists arrival, 221/2 Main Street Black Community, Commerce, Suburban Town, Westport's Future. To facilitate the project a small group of artists would be invited to submit ideas. Discussion followed. Views expressed were it should be pure art rather than historical, visually appealing, not symbolic, speak to the forgotten cultures, communicate the true history of Westport. There should also be words to explain the project.

Kathie reported the Town History is to be written and placed in-front of Town Hall. A panel is also to be placed at the entrance to Onion Alley, recognizing the Black community who lived there.

Nancy asked for a vote to approve the basic concept, and collect information, and move forward on the project, Miggs so moved and Randa seconded all were in favor.

MoCA/WAAC Exhibition: Kathie

Kathie and Nancy met with Ruth who invited WAAC to present an exhibition on the work of diversity from the Town Collection, it will include the recent additions to the collection. The exhibition opening will be December 20th. This collaboration will be jointly funded.

Poetry and Signs: Diane

The project with the schools was a success. All signs were picked up by John and returned. The June WestportlocalPress WAAC-Corner will feature poetry.

Other Business:

Richard felt we should consider TEA Talk for the fall and give two Horizon awards. He suggested we all think about this and discuss at the next meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 AT 12 NOON ON ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm

Elizabeth Strick secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee