

**Westport Arts Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, July 13, 2021**  
**12:15pm, Town of Westport recorded Zoom Call**

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Miggs Burroughs, Kathie Bennewitz, Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Richard Epstein, Jerri Graham, Diane Lowman, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Kimberly Wilson,

**Absent:** Frederic Chiu, Lee Goldstein, Deirdre Kelly, Doug Tirola, Randa Trivisono, Steve Zimmerman

Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:15pm

**Otocast status:** Richard reported that the Town of Westport, along with the DMA, were interested in developing an informational Town website. Fairfield has produced a website which could be the inspiration for a Westport website. WAAC will continue to hold the content they developed for Otocast and make it available to the Town for its inclusion in the new site..

**MOCA exhibition:** An exhibition from the Town collection is tentatively scheduled for the months of December - February and would coincide with the MOCA's annual student show. A back update, March – May is also under consideration. The exhibition will include 30 -40 works from the Town collection. Leslie LaSala, Director of Communications and Marketing at MOCA, is writing a statement announcing this co-sponsored exhibition and Kathie is sending images of some of the work to include. MOCA will confirm the date with Kathie and Nancy in the next couple of weeks.

**Poet Laureate:** Diane reported that there had been no response to installing haiku signs at Compo beach. Diane is working with a Brooklyn based poet who lived in Westport and has just published a book of poetry "The Needle" The hope is to have her speak at the Library. Diane will be meeting with the Westport Writers Workshop, and in August she is teaching a writing workshop, "Brevity in Writing" at the Senior Center.

Her August WAAC blog on Westportlocalpress will feature South African Raku potter, Lauren Kaplan. Diane will be at the Beechwood Open and the Library's Westport Book Shop talking about Haiku.

**Flood Gates:** Miggs sent out requests to sixteen established artists, not all from Westport, to send six images exemplifying their work. WAAC will select five artists for the project. So far Miggs has heard from three.

TEA Talk: A number of ideas were put forward. They were: The pandemic. Being a good neighbor. Diversity, The current state of artists compensation. Community and cultural activity. New Art - New Fashion. A platform for cultural leaders to gather to hear how they are doing, and how they are moving forward. Let's Connect is the common thread. Arts and Cultural

Identity in the Arts Community. The art of conservation. The changing Tax law for donations of art work and charitable contributions. More discussion needed on all the ideas.

From the discussion it was decided that a separate three program series of lectures dealing with the arts could be developed and held at the Library. Possible lecture, Changing Tax laws for charitable contributions was one that the committee liked. Discussion to be continued.

All agreed that TEA Talk should be in the spring of 2022 It will be held at the Library on a Sunday afternoon. Nancy will look into available dates.

**Other Business:** Let's Connect. Eric and Diane will help on getting the arts organizations together.

Kathie reported for WestPAC that the Steffi Friedman bronze ballet dancer has been installed at the High School.

New Gallery rails have been installed at Bedford

A studio visit is planned with Jahmane to see his quilt series.

Charles and Kathie met with Eileen Flug at Town Hall to discuss the appropriate wording for accepted art work donation letter.

Kathie is working with "Friends" to acquire work for their art auction, and planning studio visits. "Friends" will meet again in September.

Kathie and Elizabeth met with Ben Ortiz who is managing the distribution of art from the Fred Otnes estate. The trustees of the trust would like to donate to the Town collection 5 – 6 works, and one work which we could sell to support the Town collection. Kathie will send images to the committee for review. Kathie asked for a show of support to proceed, all were in favor.

Richard reported that we had \$2,000 left over in our account from last year which he will request to be carried forward.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 AT 12 NOON.**

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

Meeting Adjourned at 1:23PM

Elizabeth Strick

Secretary Westport Arts Advisory committee