

Westport Arts Advisory committee
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
12 noon Town of Westport recorded Zoom call

Present: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Richard Epstein, Diane Lowman, Jim Marpe, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Randa Tirivisonno, Steve Zimmerman,

Absent: Doug Tirola, Kimberly Wilson.

Call to order 12:03pm

Nancy asked Miggs to report on the Flood Gates project. Iyaba Mandingo finished his painting and the other five will be completed by the end of September. An unveiling is planned for October 16th at 1pm and will be part of the Westport October Fest weekend. Nancy will speak with the Downtown Merchants to see if some publicity efforts can be combined. Diane offered to create a Haiku for each painting. It is hoped that each artist will say a few words. The Gates project is to be called, "*Westport Illustrated*" and each gate will have the artists name and title of the work.

Diane, John, Elizabeth and Nancy will help plan the program.

American Rescue Plan:

On September 22nd at 7pm there will be a Board of Selectman's [BOS] public meeting at Town Hall to discuss the distribution of The American Rescue Plan funding. Jim Marpe will be asking that \$250,000 be allocated for the arts. If the funding is approved by the BOS, the request then goes to the Board of Finance and the RTM for approval. The monies will be distributed by WAAC to the 16 NFP arts organizations in town, based on a one-page application. Each organization will get at least \$2000.

Kathie and Randa update WestPAC:

The gifts of artwork to the Westport Public Art Collection were presented at the September 8th Board of Selectmen meeting. All were accepted.

On October 2, 2021, Steffi Friedman's bronze statue of dancers is to be unveiled at Staples High School courtyard at 2pm. The committee is invited. The work is to be permanently installed this coming week.

On January 28, 2021, an exhibition of art from the WestPAC will be on exhibit at MoCA in gallery 1 and will run through mid-March. At the same time an exhibition of student work will be on display in Gallery 2

Randa Trivisonno reported on the Friends committee and subcommittees and their achievements for the year. Friends' third annual report was sent to WAAC. The report listed the 20 projects which included: loans of art work to other arts institutions, the installation of "Rock Paper Scissors" next to the Library, re-framing of art, internships, and learning galleries in all schools.

Other Business:

On September 14, at 6pm, Poet Laureate, Diane will be in conversation with Regan Good about her new book of poetry, *"The Needle"* in the Library Café.

Nancy reported that Deirdre Kelly has resigned from the committee due to family issues

Nancy thanked Jim Marpe for his support of the arts and this committee over the last four years. The committee extended their thanks and all hoped as a private citizen he would zoom into one of our meetings.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm
Elizabeth Strick
Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee