

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
12 noon, Town of Westport recorded Zoom Call

Present: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Jerri Graham, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Kimberly Wilson, Randa Trivisonno.

Unable to attend: Frederic Chiu, Richard Epstein, Diane Lowman, Doug Tirola, Jim Marpe, Steve Zimmerman.

Guests: Carla Devillers and Shobana Mani

Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:06pm

Flood Gates project:

Miggs reported that the panels were to be installed in the next few days and that he is still waiting for statements from some of the artists. The 'unveiling' will take place on Saturday, October 16 at 1:00 pm. Nancy will welcome everyone and then each artist will speak about their work. David Waldman will make some remarks; Jim Marpe or Jen Tooker will give the closing remarks. Artists will take questions from the audience and Jerri will take pictures.

Update on MOCA January 2022 exhibition:

Kathie met with Ruth Mannes and Liz Leggett at MOCA and a potential donor for the exhibition of work from the Town art collection. A budget is being put together by Kathie and Ruth for the exhibition which opens January 28, 2022 and runs through March 12, 2022. The first gallery will exhibit 35-40 works from the Town Collection. The larger gallery will exhibit a juried Student art show and the two smaller side exhibit spaces will show Pop Art from WestPAC and two of the "learning gallery" teaching exhibits used in the schools.

Board of Finance meeting and follow-up.

Nancy reported that every department defended their reason for receiving monies from the \$8.4mm allocated to Westport from the American Rescue Plan {ARP} funds. Nancy spoke on behalf of WAAC, and advocated for distribution of ARP funds to the 17 non-profit arts organizations in Town.

Nancy thanked all who made calls to the Board of Finance detailing WAAC's ideas for the allocation of funds. Applications will be sent to all these groups, with the deadline being around November 15th. WAAC recommendations will be presented to the BOF in January, as suggested by Lee.

WestPAC Randa and Kathie:

The 2-year term for current committee members is ending. Randa is putting together a list of new committee members which she will present to Jim Marpe and the WAAC committee.

Kathie reported that there are two lists of missing artworks from the collection which are still being covered by insurance. A few works have been found; the others are still being searched for. There are now roughly 2,000 works in the collection.

A leader for the Diversity committee is needed, as Kathie has taken on a full-time job.

There are new art rails in the schools and a rotation schedule is needed for the exhibits to travel from school to school.

Guest Carla Devillers offered to help and Jerri will photograph

Other News from Committee members:

Richard reported that the new WPKN studio is up and will start broadcasting November 16.

“Short Cuts”. Thursday, 14th at the library and online. Nancy reported that reservations indicated that a 4 to 1 ratio showed people were ready to be out in person.

The Collective’s third Trunk Show on the Library’s lower parking lot will take place Saturday, October 16th

Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm

Elizabeth Strick

Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee