

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 12 noon via Zoom

Present: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Jerri Graham, Diane Lowman, Shobana Mani, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton, Randa Trivisono.

Absent: Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Doug Tirola, Kimberly Wilson, Steve Zimmerman

Guest: Harris Falk

Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:01pm and introduced are two new committee members, Shobana Mani and Dina Upton.

1. ARP funds update:

Lee reported that 16 non-profit 5013C arts organizations had been contacted, 12 responded with proposals to receive monies from the ARP grant. Lee will present the proposals to the BOF, they will then report to the RTM to approve the allocation of monies. Lee made the following motion to WAAC committee for a vote.

“We recommend that WAAC accept the proposal of the ARP sub-committee to approve the twelve arts organizations grant applications [appended] and request from the Board of Finance \$200,643 to fund these grants.”

All were in favor. Lee will ask to be on the January 2022 BOF calendar

One of the grant requests was from the Artists Collective of Westport to create art for bus shelters being installed on the Post road. Miggs reported that ACW will put together a separate committee to review artwork proposals for display on the six bus shelters in Town. The committee will select the work and have it printed on vinyl. The selected posters will be rotated quarterly.

2. Social Media update:

Dina felt we need a brand message to put on Instagram and Facebook. We currently have an Instagram account listed to an individual, it should be re-named for WAAC. which Dina will do. Looking ahead she feels it needs a full-time person to create a WAAC image, upgrade the site and post reguli. A separate committee is needed. Nancy, Shobana, Kathie and Dina have offered to help.

3. WestPAC:

Randa made a motion to accept the re-appointments of the WestPAC committee to a two-year term and ask the First Selectwoman to appoint five new Committee Members after she has met with them. A question was raised on one new appointee who is not a US citizen. Harris Falk commented that he did not think this is a concern for a town Committee, just Boards and Commission. The vote was unanimous to recommend to the First Selectwoman, acceptance of all the nominees.

A sub-committee is to be formed to review new accessions to the collection. Elizabeth, Diane , Dina and Charles all offered to help

4. “Westport Idea”

Transport of artwork from the schools to MOCA for the upcoming Exhibition in January is needed. SRI art movers will handle the Wesselman work and a large Leonard Fisher painting. A sign-up schedule is to be sent out. Elizabeth offered to help.

Kathie is working with Leslie at MOCA on publicity. Three Thursday evening talks in February are planned and will be open to the public. Kathie will give a docent tour on the collection, Ive will give a tour for the teachers and a guest speaker is planned for the 3rd Thursday. An opening reception with open bar for the show thanks to a MOCA generous donor.

Diane offered to run a session on acrostic writing and will contact MOCA.

Jerri offered to take photographs at the opening. WAAC offered to notify the Y's Women, Senior Center, PTA, Chamber of Commerce and Town officials about this exhibition. Nancy will contact the NY Times.

5. Nancy Diamond report:

Nancy met with First Selectwoman Jen Tooker. They discussed Otocast which WAAC developed and had hoped would become part of the Town's web site. Jen will get back to Nancy about next steps, as she will be appointing a new project manager to work with the Downtown Planning and Implementation Committee on a new tourist website.

Nancy reported that in the New Year, meetings would be in person starting on January 11, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 1:13pm

Elizabeth Strick

Secretary Westport Arts advisory Committee