

**Westport Arts Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2022 12 noon via Zoom**

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, Eric Chiang, John Dodig, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Diane Lowman, Shobana Mani, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Steve Zimmerman.

**Absent:** Jerri Graham, Randa Trivisono, Doug Tirola, Dina Upton, Kimberly Wilson,

**Guests:** Harris Falk, Gretchen Webb.

Nancy called the meeting to order at 12:03pm and introduced guests Gretchen Webb, reporter for Westport Journal; and Harris Falk, RTM member

**1, Recap ARP Funding**

Nancy and Lee reported on the Jan 5 Board of Finance (BOF) meeting re: allocations to arts organizations from the ARP grant. Nancy thanked Lee for managing the application process..

Report: After much discussion, the BOF voted unanimously to allocate the full \$200,643 WAAC requested, to be allocated to 12 arts organizations for project funding. The BOF emphasized that programs and services for children and seniors be paramount.

The allocation request now goes to the RTM on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 on Zoom. As all WAAC members feel that the RTM should vote on the allocation request as one block grant, it was suggested that the committee members contact their RTM members in the district they live and let their views be known. A majority of 19 votes are needed for the bulk allocation to pass. Nancy will send everyone talking points. A quick survey of the committee showed the following districts are covered:

District 2, Nancy and Miggs; District 3, Charles and Richard. District 5, Frederic; District 7, Shobana; District 8; Kathie, Lee, Eric. District 9, Dina

Others still need to check their districts.

**2. MOCA show and WestPAC**

Kathie reported that all artworks have been delivered to MOCA on schedule. MOCA has done a great job on press; and a list of WAAC's invitees has been sent to marketing.

Nancy again pointed out how fabulous it is to be showing WestPAC in an annual show.

When invitations are ready, each WAAC member can forward to friends and Eric will forward to WAAC's mailing list. The opening is Friday, January 28.

**3. Social Media:** Dina is ill, so this item is tabled until Feb

4. **TEA Talks:** Nancy raised the idea of a spring or fall talk (Covid dependent) around the paintings in the downtown walkway. A subcommittee of Nancy, Eric and Shobana was set up to discuss further and bring ideas to the Feb meeting.

5. **Meeting times:** Committee agreed unanimously to continue meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 12noon.

6. **WAAC membership.** Nancy reminded everyone that their WAAC 2-year term ends on January 30. She asked for everyone to indicate to her privately by Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, their interest in being appointed for an additional term.

7. **Other business.** John Dodig is leaving WAAC after serving two 2-year terms. Nancy thanked John for his important contributions and the rest of the committee concurred.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Strick, Secretary  
Nancy Diamond, Chair  
January 20, 2022