

Westport Arts advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 12 noon Town Hall, room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Miggs Burroughs, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Shobana Mani, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton, Kimberly Wilson, Randa Trivisono.

Guest: Harris Falk

Absent: Frederic Chiu, Eric Chiang, Jerri Graham, Diane Lowman

Nancy opened the meeting at 12:05pm

1. Poet Laureate update

Applications are due April 15. The sub-committee, Diane Lowman, Steve Zimmerman and Jennifer Bangser will review applications, interview the candidates and make their recommendation to WAAC. If WAAC approves the recommendation, it will then go to the First Selectwomen for their approval. The decision will be made by June 1; the new Laureate term begins July 1.

2. WestPAC update

Randa asked for approval for a work donated by Jilda Manikas by the artist Elizabeth Catlett titled, "Gossip" 2005, 15 1/2" x 18" A motion to recommend acceptance of this work for the Town Collection was requested. Richard moved and Kimberly seconded; all in favor. "Gossip" will now be presented to the Board of Selectwomen for acceptance.

Two new candidates for WestPAC were proposed: Jilda Manikas and Emma Quilhot. After discussion, a motion was made by Richard and seconded by Lee; all in favor voted to recommend to the Board of Selectwomen for their approval.

3. Diversity Subcommittee:

Nancy reported that Shobana has agreed to head up WAAC's newly organized diversity subcommittee. Shobana reported that concerns were expressed about figures depicted in one of the murals in the walkway beside Anthropologie. Nancy spoke with the artist who is willing to make changes, but Shobana feels that the mural is a conceptual work and making changes in art is a "slippery slope." It was decided to collect the comments and see if they can be addressed in a written explanation. A QR code at the site can take the public to a fuller understanding of the mural project.

If a committee member would like to work on the Diversity Committee please contact Shobana.

4. Social Media update:

Dina reported 118 people are following WAAC on Instagram. Information about the Poet Laureate position is on the website and weekly posts on IG are promoting the Laureate position as well. Dina thanked Miggs for his help with making changes and updating the WAAC website.

5. TEA Talk:

Since the last TEA Talk two years ago, the world has changed due to Covid. This has resulted in the art world accelerating their use of virtual. The committee agreed it should focus on the virtual art world in this fall's TEA Talk.

Richard proposed that one segment be a discussion between a musician and a speaker who has knowledge of the new ways to promote in the virtual world. As a possible speaker/interviewer. Richard suggested Dick Wingate. Dick manages music production and has knowledge of the virtual world. The discussion could be how the old school of presenting a musician versus the new current way using technology and how this has affected the artist. WNYC's John Shiller's name was also put forward as a possible speaker.

A discussion was had re: structure of the Talk. Should we continue with 3 2-person conversations by genre? I.e. Music, theatre, art... OR should the talks be by theme? Eg. Creating art, marketing, consuming art in a virtual world

No decision was made, more discussion at the next meeting

Possible titles for TEA Talk discussed:

Virtual Virtuoso, A virtual World with the Arts, Virtually Engaged, The Arts go Virtual, Blazing Virtual Trails.

The Next Meeting of WAAC is May 10, 2022, Town Hall room 201

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Strick, Secretary