

Westport Public Art Collections (WestPAC)

June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Public meeting held on Town Zoom

Minutes submitted by Barbara Wang

Attending: Randa Trivisonno, Kathie Bennewitz, Ive Covaci, Leonor Dao Turut, Emma Quilhot, Scott Springer, Patti Boutilier, Reese Green, Amanda Castellano, Kelcey Hix, Stephanie Klose, Ariel Dunne, Carla Devillers

1. Approved Minutes from Previous Meeting May 11, 2022.

2. Collection Update:

- Inventory: this will be upcoming next year again.
- The list of non-art / reproductions to declassify from the last meeting will be presented at WAAC's next meeting June 21 by Kathie, and then will draft recommendation to BOE to remove from collection and insurance list.
 - Any possibilities for deaccessions (works of art) will go through a multi-step process as outlined in collections management guidelines.
- Subcommittee for Accessions:
 - "Gossip" by Elizabeth Catlett donated by Jilda Manikas - this is proceeding thru deed of gift paperwork. Other accessions will be lined up for the fall.
 - Anyone who wants to join accessions subcommittee please let Randa and Ive know.
- Discussion of offered donation of classroom drawings by Camille Eskell, artist and retiring SHS art teacher. Jen and Leonore met with Camille to review works, including portraits of students and still lifes. Discussion by committee. It was noted that we have one work of hers in the collection, very different from these drawings. Conclusion that we would like to potentially add a couple works to the Collection. Jen and Leonore to reach out to her and select 1-3 works for bringing back to the committee for consideration.

3. Education Update:

- Learning Galleries -recap of galleries at each school and upcoming movements:
 - No changes in schools since last meeting. Upcoming move of Lynsey Addario photo exhibit from Westport Public Library to SHS on June 15th. Volunteers needed for between 1-3pm.

- Ive will be reaching out to teachers about their wishes for rotations in the fall.
- Announcement of the installation of prints by Japanese and Japanese American artists at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. Accompanying virtual exhibit and a program for seniors on August 26th presented by Ive.
- Education Subcommittee update:
 - Labels printed and ready for mounting; working on new groupings.
 - Announcement of Westport Public Schools “Spark” exhibit at MoCA Westport June 12-19
 - Discussion of new loan by Eric Chiang of “Ode to Earth” for installation at CMS, and need for BMS loan for library rails, studio visits to be held over the summer. Anyone who wants to help let us know.
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4. Friends of WestPAC update:

- Kathie, Anne, Randa, and Ive meeting on Friday June 10th to go over the remaining budget and spending plans, and to work on next year’s budget.
- All PTAs except Coleytown Elementary have submitted their contributions. Scott B has sent a reminder to CES.

5. Special Projects Update:

- Westport Public Library “Musical Notes” Fall 2022 curated by Carole Erger-Fass; dates are a bit tentative – either Sept- Dec, or Nov-Feb; waiting to hear back from Carole. 3 works need to be framed.
- Fairfield University Art Museum loan request – 7 works for an exhibition late April 2023 - July 2023; some research needed for dating and information on the artists on our end to provide for them. Kathie shared the list of works and noted they will handle insurance, and likely transport for at least a few of the pieces that need special handling. Kathie will write to Carey with our support of the loan and get the loan forms to appropriate places (BOS, BOE).
- Internship update – Slade Anastasia’s work as SHS intern, cataloging political cartoons by Robert Durham and assisting with spring site visits and hanging Town Hall and WCSA. Reese, Anne, Randa, and Ive attended his presentation on June 8 on a selection of Bob Durham cartoons that he had cataloged. Big thank you to Anne Boberski for guiding him and us and planning the internship activity.

6. Representative Site Reports:

- Recap of Spring site checks – complete except for CMS and Fire Station. Ive is compiling and uploading new photos and any condition problems. Some committee members still sending in the reports.

7. WestPAC Committee update - transitions and vacancies

- Randa will be stepping down as Chair; has been in the role for 4 years, but plans remaining on the committee, and as site rep and recruitment coordinator.
- Ive will step up as Chair; would like a co-head to join 2nd year for smooth transitions in future.
- Barbara will remain as secretary
- Anne will remain as internship coordinator - but would like a co-head next year, Town Hall Captain
- Need BMS site rep to join Ive
- Need 2 social media coordinators to help with posts on Instagram and FB, Kathie can fill them in and help transition that work.
- No site reps on call said they were leaving their schools next year; anyone else who is transitioning schools should let us know.
- Kathie noted our appreciation and gratitude to Randa for her leadership over the past 4 years, shepherding the growth and development of the committee and its work.

8. Additional Business

- Celebrate Westport - Reese reported from Celebrate Westport meeting, that she advised them on our activities, and encouraged everyone to check out the calendar that's kept with the town with the events planned by all the groups, and will share the minutes from that meeting.
- No other concerns or topics raised.

9. Next Meeting : Wednesday September 14th at 7pm, tentatively virtual. Town will provide guidance regarding return to in-person meetings.