

Westport Arts Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 12 noon Town Hall room 201 in person and on Zoom

Present: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, Jerri Graham, Shobana Mani, Jessica Noyes, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton, Kimberly Wilson,

Unable to attend: Frederic Chiu, Lee Goldstein, Diane Lowman.

Guests: Harris Falk, Barbara Wang, WestPAC representative.

Poet Laureate report:

Jessica reported that she had reached out to Homes for the Brave, the Senior Center who said they would be interested in the spring, and the MOCA poetry slam on October 20th which she will join. She has also contacted the Westport Middle Schools where she hopes to help with a poetry elective. Toquet Hall where teens meet she hopes to engage teens in a poetry slam. November 11 is Veteran's Day, it was suggested Jessica speak with Eileen Francis at Town Hall for a possible link with the Veterans,.

Dina will post on WAAC website, Instagram or any platform once Jessica has firm dates.

Other possible connections were, The Artists Collective and the Farmers Market with kids in the spring.

TEA Talk, finalizing program.

Film:

Prior to meeting Shobana sent the committee the current thoughts on the "Democratization of the Arts in the area of Content Creation". Two ideas related to film were discussed and the decision was to go with Ty Deran and Jenn Berniker both local who are creating video in their homes and distributing through Instagram and other platforms, not working with a studio. Their work could be shown on the Library's big screen as part of the event.

Shobana made a motion to invite Ty and Jenn to speak at the event, Kimberley seconded all in favor.

Music:

Richard reported that musician no longer need a studio to promote their music it can be made in the living room, recorded on a phone and distributed using streaming services. He recommended that we bring in Emmy award – winning performer, teacher and media commentator Michael Whelan, with whom he would discuss the changes in the music industry. A new app, FarPlay is playing a big part in these changes.

It was suggested that the Library's Verso be invited to take part. Richard will look into finding an up-an-coming musician who works on their own to produce music, Guest Barbara Wang mentioned a Staples grad who is making a name for himself by singing in Mandarin. Richard will be the moderator of this section.

Jerri made a motion to go forward with Verso and a musician seconded Elizabeth all in favor.

Art:

Suggested are “5Fingas” a Norwalk artist who reacts to social issues through his art and performance and artist Tom Bernsten who is producing provocative art and using You Tube as a way to sell his work. Tom could be in conversation with “5Fingas” to discuss the changes in the art world since Covid. Accompanying this part of the event, Shobana Suggested a performance by artist Heshima Moja.

Kimberly made a motion to invite 5Fingas and Tom Barnston to speak at the event Charles seconded all in favor.

Nancy reminded everyone to firm up their artists so we can begin publicizing TEA Talk. She tabled the last item on the agenda until the October meeting. WestPAC report.

The next WAAC meeting will be October 11, 2022, 12 noon Town Hall room 201

Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm

Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Strick, Secretary