

Westport Public Art Collections (WestPAC)

October 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Public meeting held at The Westport Library, room 216

Minutes submitted by Barbara Wang

Attending: Ive Covaci, Randa Trivisonno, Anne Boberski, Jennifer Fridland, Jilda Manikas, Patti Boutilier, Emma Quilhot, Leonor Turut, Carla Devillers, Paula Argosh, Reese Green, Amanda Castellano, Barbara Wang, Harris Falk

1. Committee Updates

- Approved Minutes from Previous Meeting September 14, 2022.
- Welcome and Re-introduction of members present
- Security Badges: in progress with Lisa Marriott at Town Hall for those in need.
 - Review of school entry procedures
- Open Positions - Social Media, BMS Representative, Fire House Representative:
 - Randa made presentation on each of the roles: Kathie continues to take on the social media role, but looking for help; Patti Boutilier has volunteered to help at BMS, but looking for additional; and we will send out another request to members

2. Collection Update:

- 5 new batches of accessions to process; Kathie will be reaching out to organize an Accessions working session.
 - Already approved accessions from last year moving forward in process
 - Group of works offered by Dale and Nancy Reinker (via Ben Ortiz)
 - Works offered by Camille Eskell, recently retired SHS art teacher
 - Estelle Margolis estate (currently ANAs in database)
 - Jilda, Paula, & Reese volunteered to work with Kathie to sort, inventory, and evaluate
 - Gifts from Ann Chernow, including 6 print portfolios
 - Discussion about idea of accepting portfolios to the collection: Lots of positive comments and interest for this type of accession

3. Representative Site Reports

- Reminder of Fall Tasks (clarified procedure of asking for walkthru of sites)
- Town Hall: Anne hosted 2 tours in September - one for the Westport Center for Senior Activities members and one for WestPAC committee members along with Town Hall Employees. Anne and Jilda also installed labels in public hallways. Both tours very successful and well received. Thanks Anne!

- WCSA - new installations of 2 paintings by Paul Dohanos (son of Stevan Dohanos). Anne reports Dohanos family, who frequent the WCSA are very excited.
- Town Hall: Conservation Dept has requested new art
- SHS: Giants of the Blues requested to be temporarily removed by custodians during work; has been successfully re-installed.

4. Education Update:

- Learning Galleries -recap of galleries at each school and upcoming movements:
 - GFS will be getting Landscapes; Matisse display to storage or elsewhere
 - KHS will get Color and Collage from storage
 - Barbara will send out request to members for help with this moving and hanging project
 - Ive will be reaching out to teachers about their wishes for rotations in the fall.
 - SHS English Classroom- new installation plans
 - Jen and Leonor will take on task of hanging pieces. Labels will also be needed
 - Senior Center has requested a display of Portraits from the Collection
 - Japanese prints will be coming down and can go to storage or elsewhere

5. Friends of WestPAC update:

- Budget we submitted was approved
- Fundraising event/auction/sale. Anyone who wants to help, please join.
 - Emma Quilhot expressed interest and will be in touch with Scott Bennewitz

6. Special Projects Update:

- Planning for MoCA exhibition for winter 2023
 - Ive and Kathie will have meeting with MoCA guest curator next week
 - 8 works by Camacho for the show are with Sarah Dove Fine Art Conservation, but will be done by Dec 1 in time for the show
 - Discussion around funding for conservation/rehabilitation projects, especially the Camacho multi-year project, consensus to proceed as planned with finishing the last batch of the Camacho works
 - Delivery of all works for the show will need to be BEFORE the Dec holidays - so committee members should expect requests for aid in moving pieces around.
- CMS/BMS loan project: received 4 solid offers and are working with teachers from each school to narrow it down to final artist selections for each school.
- Planning for Westport Library “Musical Notes” for Dec 2022
 - Dec 6th is date when works need to be delivered from SHS, CES, KHS - committee members please watch for requests for aid in moving pieces around

- Discussion around January 31st reception, Library possibly inviting SHS Jazz band to perform
- Fairfield University Art Museum: April - July 2023 Exhibition “Women in Translation: Gender and the Process of Creation”. Student curator Phoebe Charpentier will visit us on November 16th to view the works the FUAM will be borrowing for the show.

7. Additional Business

- Celebrate Westport - Reese reports about their new website launch. We need WestPAC included in their Arts & Culture section. We will work on a submission.
- Westport Arts Advisory Committee “TEA Talk” is November 6th. Theme of Democratization of the Arts, looking at music, theater, and art.

8. Next Meeting : Wednesday November 9th at 7pm. Room 216 at WPL..

- Discussion of frequency of meetings: general feeling we should continue with monthly meetings at this time to get back to pre-pandemic momentum.
- Encouragement to members: if you have ideas for agenda items (projects or ideas), please pass along to Barbara beforehand for consideration.
- Request from Members to please bring forward site commentary either before the meeting (send to Barbara) or prepare to report during meeting.