

Westport Public Art Collections (WestPAC)

November 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Public meeting held at The Westport Library, room 216

Minutes submitted by Barbara Wang

Attending: Ive Covaci, Kathie Bennowitz, Randa Trivisonno, Anne Boberski, Gali Katz, Kelcey Hix, Jilda Manikas, Patti Boutilier, Emma Quilhot, Leonor Turut, Stephanie Klose, Imke Lohs, Barbara Wang, Harris Falk

1. Committee Updates

- Approved Minutes from Previous Meeting October 12, 2022.
- Annual report was shared by email with BOS and BOE; Receipt was acknowledged by thank you to committee from BOE - Lee Goldstein; invited to present at BOE, Jan/Feb will piggyback on new accessions and update on all our activities. Kathie suggested also sending the report to RTM LMA (Library, Museum and Arts Committee Chair, Kristin Purcell) and making an appointment to meet with the LMA committee as Randa, Kathie and Nancy had in June. 2020.
- Open Positions -
 - Co-Internship Chair: Anne Boberski provided details of what is needed to manage the SHS spring internship for its 5 week duration May/June.
 - Social Media: Kathie Bennowitz explained what is needed... led to discussion of ideas on how to handle this position as a means to publicize the collections and its projects and accomplishments, and to address some members' concerns over artists rights/use of images. Further discussion will be held in next month's meeting to plan how to best strategically employ social media platforms to meet our needs.

2. Collection Update:

- Kathie Bennowitz reported on the state of the Storage room 2 at SHS. Tasks to clear it up to make a more usable and safe space for *temporary* art storage.
 - Unframing Ford Times collection (logistics involved and to be planned), to be scheduled for after school or day off upcoming; cataloging these fully might be good project for internship in spring
 - Taking works with frame repair needs to Rockwell, or another framer
 - Rehanging Kiermaier work as due to its size it will be safer than in storage; SHS may have potential space for it, possibly Teacher's Lounge

- Walter Einsel, *Selectmen Watcher* sculpture (#542) needs to be placed back on public views, and removed from Storage 2; needs a new pedestal. Anne suggested that this might be a good project for SHS woodshop/tech classes (she will reach out)

3.Representative Site Reports

- Town Hall - Anne Boberski reported on new Conservation and Operations directors completing reinstalls of art in their offices.
 - Dan Woog 06880 Post Today (11/9/2022) showcased Tom Kiely, new ops director, and included picture with new artwork
- GFS - Anne Boberski and Emma Quilhot reported on key reinstalls, including Lou Hicks *Playing with Red* (#186) and Burt Chernow Gallery reinstallation and Fisher's Revolutionary War posters on 2nd floor
 - Ive still needs to tackle discussion of rails for 2nd floor w/ facilities
- KHS - Gali Katz and Kelcey Hicks reported plans for main office and faculty lounge redesigns; discussion also over entryway at KHS and the problems of security and weather
- CES - Stephanie Klose (via Ive) reported that DEI committee request for artworks to feature: committee discussion included Richard Hunt and ideas for others
- SHS - Leonor Turut reported
 - English classroom installation completed (minus Daugherty *Moses* #1918 still to come from framing)
 - Discussion around outdated student artwork hanging (screwed into) on walls and taking up valuable space. Leonor proposed to work with the Art Dept to see about taking down some of this art and replacing it with works from the Collection and new student art

4.Education Update:

- Learning Gallery installations (LLS, GFS, KHS) as well as WCSA
 - Ive Covaci showcased photos to the committee of completed installations at these sites - Landscape at GFS, Still Life at KHS, Collage at LLS, Portraits at WCSA

5.Friends of WestPAC update: no update from Scott Bennewitz

6.Special Projects Update:

- Planning for MoCA exhibition winter 2023 Jan 12 to Feb 26
 - Mid-December delivery of works - Committee should lookout for emails for volunteers to help with this.

- Removed art will have “Temporary Art Removal” signage in place
- Monday Feb 27th for pickup of works from MoCA (Ive will reach out about some additional dates for flexibility)
- MoCA Learning gallery idea - “abstraction”
- Planning for Westport Library "Musical Notes" Dec 2022 - delivery of art December 6th (KHS, CES, SHS and storage)
- BMS / CMS loan art project - installed! Ive Covaci shared photos of the installations. 3 paintings by Liz Leggett at CMS, one large painting by Jay Petrow at BMS.

7. Additional Business:

- Database training - discussion of holding an in -person training session on navigating the Collection in the database
- Site Tours - idea discussed for touring the WestPAC sites for our committee members - to get ideas, swap out art
- All other business tabled till next month’s meeting due to time constraints

8. Next Meeting : Wednesday December 14th at 7pm. Room 216 at WPL.