

Westport Public Art Collections (WestPAC)

June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Public meeting held at The Westport Library, room 210

Minutes submitted by Barbara Wang

Attending in person: Ive Covaci, Kathie Bennewitz, Randa Trivisonno, Anne Boberski, Patti Boutilier, Gali Katz, Jilda Manikas, Eve Potts, Marion Morra, Amanda Castellano, Jen Fridland
Attending over zoom: Stephanie Klose

Approved Minutes from Previous Meeting May 10, 2023.

1. Committee Updates.

- WAAC announced they unanimously voted to recommend all for reappointment.
- SHS Internship review
 - Successful internship with student Oliver Saitz
 - Oliver cataloged all of the Robert Durham political cartoons, helped with inventory at many sites, and presented several of the cartoons at the WCSA.

2. Collection Update:

- Inventory Project
 - All sites complete except for Storage. Storage to be completed over the summer - discussion of dates to accomplish that task.
- CT Collections update: public portal cleanup work to be done over the summer.

3. Special Projects:

- Exhibitions & Loans
 - Return of FUAM loans - to be coordinated by Kathie in July
 - Showtime exhibition at the WPL in October - details to be coordinated in September
 - Projects for 2024: Celebrating 60 years of the founding of the collection!
 - MoCA winter show exhibition - propose focus on works from the 1960's to kickoff celebrating 60 years. This is also an area of strength in the Collection.
 - Ive to put together proposal and checklist
 - Possible TH: Ann Chernow exhibition for Westport Artists of the past, to continue celebration theme

4. Site Reports

- Wakeman Town Farm: proposal to put Wakeman house painting (currently at SHS) in the barn currently being renovated; Committee will assess the space for viability.
- SHS: art in library needs cleaning behind frame.
- WCSA: Peter Gish work has broken wire - Jilda may be able to repair.
- LLS: missing pieces were located; some broken hooks downstairs need replacing
- BMS: Patti and Ive will work on plan for reinstalling works in library and new areas of guidance
- SES/KHS: the schools will share a new assistant principal - Patti will work with him to choose works
- TH: Room 109 has a large wall available
- BMS/CMS: large loan art program - BMS principal suggesting making it every 2 years. CMS will get new principal so need to get successor's input before proceeding.
- Additional notes:
 - Chief Foti Koskinas is interested in art, per Nancy Diamond. Anne will reach out.
 - Discussion of Heurlin works at LLS, SES as Heurlin just came up for auction.

5. Friends of WestPAC update:

- Budget - \$500 to spend before end of June.
 - Before end of this fiscal year: plan to install CES rail & reframe Trout Fisherman from SES that was damaged
- Next fiscal year - plan to proceed with framing works from new print portfolios that can be rotated.

6. Additional Announcements:

- Celebrate Westport - Jilda's report:
 - Jilda went to Blau house and gardens
- Member Announcements
 - Anne advised of new exhibition at Bruce Museum opening June 24th featuring Mark Dion and Alexis Rockman.
 - Amanda Castellano volunteered to step up as Art Smart liaison. Amanda will attend the district-wide kick-off and work with site reps to help support projects in the schools.

7. Next Meeting : Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 7pm. WPL location to be determined.

