

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 12 noon, Town Hall room 2013

Present: Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, Charles Rosoff, Britt Steel, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Dina Upton. Ive Covaci {WestPAC}

Unable to attend: Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Lee Goldstein, Jessica Noyes.

Guest: William Palmer, community member interested to learn more about WAAC

Co-chair Nancy Diamond opened the meeting at 12:05pm.

MOCA Exhibition: Town Art Collection

Opening January 18, 2024, at MOCA, “60’s Mod” work from the Westport Town Collection. On exhibit 60 works from the 1960’s - 1975 including paintings and prints in the large gallery at MOCA. A number of local artists are included in the exhibition. In the smaller gallery a selection of posters from the period will be on display along with a print making demonstration and a short film about the collection hosted by Kathie in the two smaller exhibit spaces. The film will be posted on the WAAC website. An opening reception will be on January 18th from 6 – 8pm. The exhibition runs through March 3rd.

Poet Laureate Search:

Jessica’s two-year term ends in June. A committee is being formed along with Jessie to help with the search for a new Poet Laureate. Please let Nancy know if you would like to serve or have suggestions.

Sculpture Update:

Dina reported that Niki Ketchman’s sculpture “*Passages*” is ready to be installed in the Spring at Pasacreta Park. Approval from Parks and Rec is in progress and the Town will dig the hole for the work to be placed. A donation of gravel will be placed around the work to protect it from the mowers.

“*Windows*” a work by Carol Eisner is on hold due to installation costs and insurance.

The search continues for sculptures suitable for the Westport parks.

“Westport Illustrated”:

A statement and better signage are needed for the Flood Gates project which tells the story of Westport along the River. David and Charles offered to write a new statement. At the January meeting, David will provide his drafts for the artists’ statements and also for the overview.

Discussion of WAAC objectives in 2024: Nancy

On the back of a successful TEA Talk, the committee discussed how we could grow from this and what our purpose should be. Suggestions included work with the High School art program to bring in a younger audience. Other comments included understanding who our stakeholders are: The non-profits, the community of Westport, youth and then framing our work around these areas. Let’s Connect, for example, is a series developed directly for the nonprofits, TEA

talk and one more event to take place in q1 or q2 would be for the community. More discussion around the mission of WAAC will take place at the January meeting.
The "Lets Connect" date is set for January 24th.

Nancy reminded everyone their term was up in January. If you wish to step down, please let her know.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee