

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 12noon, Town Hall room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Lee Goldstein, Jessica Noyes, Elizabeth Strick, Charles Rosoff, David Rosenwaks.

Unable to attend: Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, Britt Steel, Dina Upton, Ive Covaci [WestPAC]

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

Co-chair Shobana Marni opened the meeting at 12:00pm.

Upcoming events, Shobana reported. "60's Mod" work from the Town Art Collection curated by Kathie Bennewitz at MOCA. Opening reception on January 18, 2024.

January 22nd Kathie and Ive will speak at the Y's Women

Nancy reminded committee to try and attend the Celebrate Westport monthly 9am meetings for non-profits.

Poet Laureate report: Jessica is working on a program for April's Open Mic at MOCA.

Two children so far have responded to the poetry competition "*What I see what I perceive*" which is co-sponsored by the Westport Garden Club.

On February 22nd. Jessica will hold a writer's workshop at the library on how to publish or find a journal for your work.

A Committee is being formed to search for a new poet Laureate, to replace Jessica whose term is coming to an end... So far Isabel from MOCA has accepted, Nancy will speak to Kelle Ruden for suggestions.

Sculpture Update:

Kathie reported. "*Passages*" by Niki Ketchman is ready for installation in the spring at Pasacreta Park. Kathie and Dina will make a presentation to Parks and Rec on January 17th for approval. Proposal is for public works to dig a foundation trench; Tom Bernstein to pick up, transport, and install "*Passages*". Total cost of the project is \$6,200 (artist fee is \$1000 x 5 over 5 years) which will come out of the WAAC budget.

"*Windows*" by Carol Eisner will also be present to the Parks and Rec commission for approval but will be on hold due to a cost of \$20,000 to move and install. Funds will be required to go forward.

"Westport Illustrated"

David has created a new statement for the Flood Gates project and updated the artists statements. All artists have been asked to review their statement and get back to David by January 13th if there are any changes. Miggs will do the setup for printing and Kathie will proof.

Discussion of WAAC's 2024 objectives

Shobana reported that "A Let's Connect" meeting was set for January 24th in the Playhouse Barn. Non-profit arts groups have been invited for part 2 of social media workshop, led by Ashley Hyde from the Library.

TEA Talk was very successful last fall. A topic for this fall's event is yet to be decided on. Shobana suggested asking the public through social media, the library website, and Staples newsletter what they would like to hear. No decision reached.

Lee Goldstein, reported on the Westport Arts Organizations Grant requests. The Town received 8 million from the Federal Government for covid relief. Up to \$20,000 was awarded to the 16 non-profit Arts Organizations in Town who requested help. Lee is still waiting for some organizations' reports, then will submit the final report to the RTM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee