

**Westport Arts Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Town Hall room 201**

**Present:** Shobana Mani, Miggs Burroughs, Richard Epstein, William Palmer, Britt Steel, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Dina Upton, Ive Covaci {WestPAC}

Unable to attend: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Eric Chiang, Lee Goldstein, Jessica Noyes, Charles Rosoff,  
Guest: Paul Davis

Co-Chair, Shobana Mani opened the meeting at 12:00pm

**Poet Laureate search: Britt Steel**

The search continues for the Poet Laureate position. A flyer about the position was generated by Miggs. It will be posted around Town and distributed to local websites. Britt will secure a date at the library for an event to welcome the new poet.

**Sculpture update: Dina Upton**

Niki Ketcham's "Passage" will be installed at Pasacreta Park on April 18. The unveiling date Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm to be confirmed with Niki. Invites to the event will be sent to the WestPAC committee, Public Works, Parks, and Rec the First Selectwoman's office and circulated to the WAAC mail list.

It was suggested a QR code be established for "Passage." Ive will place the work on the Town Art Collection site. Also suggested a "contributions are welcome" to help fund public sculpture be added to the Collection site. A press release to be generated for the event.

Dina showed images of work by the Norwalk sculptor Marc Zaref, whose studio she had visited. After looking at images of his work, the committee was all in favor of pursuing his willingness to the terms of a five-year loan. Dina will move forward.

**Let's Connect: Shobana Mani**

Shobana is to send a survey to all past participants to gauge interest and find out what they would like to discuss before setting a date.

**Downtown Walkway update: David Roenwaks**

David shared images of the final install of all signage for artwork and introduction sign to the walkway. Images will be sent to Dan Woog to include in his blog. Miggs was also thanked for his work.

**TEA Talk: Shobana Mani**

Last year's event was a huge success. How can we make it even better. Topics for consideration are "Art Addressing Humor" using cartoon art, non-traditional artists who incorporate fashion, which could include flower design, Art, and the Cancel Culture. The need for the right speaker for the event could be a Westport or an artist from out of Town. Accompanying the event could include video artist 5 Fingers. Richard will secure

a November date at the library. Committee to come back with ideas for discussion at next month's meeting.

Ive reported that the Friends of WestPAC yearly fund raiser will be held at the Women's Club on Thursday, June 26. Tickets available on their website.

Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory committee