

**Westport Arts Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at Town Hall room 201**

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Miggs Burroughs, Paul Davis, Lee Goldstein, William Palmer, Charles Rosoff, David Rosenwaks, Britt Steel, Elizabeth Strick, Dina Upton, Ive Covaci

**Unable to attend:** Kathie Bennewitz, Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, Jessica Noyes,

Co-Chair Nancy Diamond opened the meeting at 12:07pm

**WestPAC Fundraiser update, Ive Covaci.**

“Art in Bloom” a fundraiser for WestPCA was held at the Women’s Club on Tuesday, June 6th. Forty-four tickets were sold, and donations were also received. The evening included a silent auction and an auction of donated works, with Charles Rosoff as auctioneer. Staples String Quartet performed, First Select Women Jen Tooker spoke, and guests enjoyed light bites and wine. The event raised \$16, 050 before expenses.

Ive asked for Arts Advisory Committee to vote on a new art rep, Tatyana Hixon for Saugatuck Elementary School After reviewing her resume, Nancy asked for a motion to approve Tatyana Hixon as the WestPAC rep at Saugatuck Elementary. David Rosenwaks so moved, and Britt seconded. All were in favor. Nancy will send Tanya’s resume, along with WAAC’s recommendation, to the First Selectwomen’s office for her approval.

**Sculpture update: Dina Upton**

The sculpture sub-committee met to discuss a process for selecting sculptures to be placed in Westport parks. Carey Weber, Fairfield University Art Gallery director, was invited to share her process and guidelines at the sub-committee’s next meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Library.

Sculpture under consideration: Mark Zarif’s work which was viewed at his studio. All were in favor of “Enso Black,” a welded steel enamel work. Park location to be determined.

Carol Eisner’s “Windows” is out of our budget. She has smaller work and Dina recommended “Queen of Hearts,” which is under consideration. Nancy asked that Dina send out info/images of both pieces. Possible location is Canal Park.

A motion was made to create guidelines for selecting work, while simultaneously moving forward with the sculptures already chosen. Paul Davis so moved, Nancy seconded, all were in favor. Dina will call Kathie, who was absent from meeting, to fill her in on the WAAC discussion/decision. Dina will set up a visit to Babette and Emily’s studios.

**Poet Laureate update: Britt Steel.**

Britt received a completed application from Donna Dish, writer/blogger and food network host who is also a published poet. She is waiting to receive a completed application from Ifeseyi Gayle. She is arranging a meeting with Donna and her subcommittee.

Jessica Noyes has agreed to do one more year as poet Laureate which gives the committee more time to make the selection for Westport's next poet laureate who would begin their tenure in June 2025. Britt will call her to let her know we have a solid application in now.

**Let's Connect-new ideas:**

Two previous "Lets Connects" have taken place, the first right after Covid at MoCA and the second at the Playhouse Barn. A third was planned but did not receive enough of a response to go forward. Shobana suggested a Summer Social to be held early evening outside the Library, to bring not-for-profits together on either a Tuesday or Wednesday in July. Ideas for content was discussed, all suggestions welcome. Shobana will finalize date, find an indoor room at the Library in case of rain and get an eblast ready.

**TEA Talk:**

"Humor as counterculture" seems to be gaining traction with the committee, considering one-on-one conversations with invited guests. More discussion at the July meeting.

**The next meeting will be held on July 9, 2024, 12 noon Town Hall room201**

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee