

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Town Hall room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Donna Dish, Paul Davis, Eric Chiang, Richard Epstein, William Palmer, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks and Ive Covaci WestPAC rep.

Unable to attend: Lee Goldstein, Charles Rosoff, Britt Steel, Dina Upton.

Co-Chair Nancy Diamond called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

TEA Talk: *“The Art of Being Funny, When HA HA is a NO NO”*

Nancy reported that Britt has spoken with Staples teacher Alex McHale to see if she would like to introduce TEA Talk. She is interested but has not made a firm commitment. Britt will follow up.

Nancy suggested a short play about two women by comedy writer Olivia Levine which is funny and controversial. The committee was interested, Nancy will pursue.

Suggested for the event two political cartoonists in dialog, Matt Davies and Maria Miggs will speak with Norm Segal to be the moderator, Nancy and Shobana will come up with the talking points.

Richard will put together short clips from “All in The Family” and other TV programs from that era as a possible addition to the program. Donna was asked if she would like to contribute a poem.

Miggs will design a card and lawn signs.

Shobana and Nancy will put together a blurb for the library’s website and for use on Instagram and Tik Tok.

Lunch will be provided for the speakers at 12:30 prior to the event which starts at 2pm.

Sculpture update:

Kathy reported for Dina that Mark Zarif met with members of the sculpture Committee and representatives from Parks and Rec at Eloise Ray Park, a site was selected for “Enzo.”

Dina, Parks and Rec and the committee met with Babette Block at Canal Green Park where a site was selected for her work.

Dina, Kathy and Nancy will present two sculptures at the Parks and Rec advisory committee meeting on November 19th. They are “Enzo” by Mark Zarif and a sculpture by Babette Block for approval to install. Also, for presentation, the “*Onion*” by Emily Teal for Grace K. Salmon Park. A meeting will take place with Megan Lott, President of the Westport Garden Club and Vice President Nathalie Fonteyne to discuss placement of the “*Onion*”.

Kathy raised the discussion for buying art in the future and the care and maintenance of sculpture on loan to the Town. The discussion was postponed till after TEA Talk.

A map is needed for the public to locate the sculptures in the different parks. A map and title for the project is also needed.

Poet Laureate update: Donna reported that the poetry box has been installed and is attracting attention. Donna has joined the Ct Poetry Society, and she will be speaking on Robert Frost at the Library in November. She asked about having a Banner on Main Street for a poetry month.

Vote for proposed artwork for accession to the Westport Public Art Collection:

Kathie reported that the Sculpture sub-committee met and reviewed nine works for the Town Art collection. Kathie asked for a vote on the work by Victor Dowd, Nancy Chunn, Karyn Oliver, Susan Rabinowitz [Malloy], Barbara Rothenberg, Liz Leggett, James Sharpe, Brooke Waring and Audrey Quinn.

Richard Epstein made a motion to except the work by the seven artists, Paul seconded all in favor.

The Susan Rabinowitz painting will stay in the collection the remaining six artists' work will be distributed within the schools.

Ive Covaci announced "*On Fire, Energy - Climate – Infrastructure*" an exhibition to be held at MoCA/CT and curated by WestPAC which opens on January 15 and will run through March 2, 2025. All work is on loan from the Town Collection.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 12, 2024, TOWN HALL ROOM 201, 12 NOON

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee