

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Town Hall room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Donna Dish, Paul Davis, Richard Epstein, William Palmer, Charles Rosoff, Britt Steel, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Dina Upton, Ann Boberski WestPAC rep.

Unable to attend: Eric Chiang, Lee Goldstein.

Co-chair Nancy Diamond called the meeting to order at 12:05pm

TEA Talk; Nancy and Shobana.

Nancy informed the committee that the keynote speaker had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. A different way to present TEA Talk was devised.

The title for this year's TEA Talk is, "*The Art of Being Funny, When HA HA is a NO NO*". It will begin without an introduction by the actors emerging from the audience and staging a very short raunchy play.

At the plays conclusion, Shobana will ask the audience how the play made them feel, this interaction will be followed by an introduction by Nancy who will moderate the event.

Nancy will introduce the panelists, They are; cartoonist Matt Davies, Olivia Levine writer/actor/comedian, Norm Siegel fine artist and Frederic Stroppe playwright/screen writer. Visuals will be shown of the artist's work during the Q and A

The show will conclude with Donna reading a poem followed by music by "Avenue Q." Refreshments will be served

Sculpture Update: Kathie Bennewitz

Three sculptures have been approved by Parks and Rec along with their selected sites. It is hoped to install "*Tulip Bulb*" by Emily Theill this year at Grace K. Salmon Park.

A meeting with fine art installers the Mariano Brothers has been scheduled

Two other sculptures are planned for install in 2025 they are Babette Block "Egrets" and Marc Zeref's "Enso". Parks and Rec will install the foundation masonry for each work at a cost of \$1,000 for each sculpture.

Kathie made a motion that The Westport Arts Advisory Committee would fund three sculptures for \$15,000 which included a sign for each piece. Charles Rosoff seconded all were in favor.

WestPAC: Ann Boberski

"*On Fire*" *Energy – Climate –Infrastructure*" an exhibition to be held at MoCA CT opening with a reception on January 9 and running through March 2, 2025. All the work in the exhibition is on loan from the Town Collection and will include four large murals depicting the exhibition theme.

At the same time there will be an exhibit by Westport School children in the large gallery and in the Learning Galleries nineteen works from a collection of fifty works from the

1950's that were reproduced in the publication, Ford Times. Funding is needed for framing these works.

Friends of WestPAC may be able to help with \$3,400 the balance is to come from WAAC.

Kathy made a motion to recommend that \$3,500 be put toward framing of the 19 painting for the exhibition, Richard seconded all were in favor.

Other Business:

Shobana felt strongly that we need to have a separate budget for sculpture and art related special projects. Nancy suggested a finance committee to oversee this. No decision made.

Richard reported that we have money in our account which includes a carry-over from the previous year.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE DECEMBER 11, 2024, TOWN HALL, ROOM 307/309
AT 12 NOON**

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee