

**WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE [WAAC]**

**Regular meeting**

**Monday, July 15, at 12 noon**

**Attending:** Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Wendy Morgan-Hunter, Kelle Ruden, Carole Schweid, Sandy Lefkowitz, Elizabeth Strick.

**Absent:** Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, Deirdre Price.

**Guest:** Deirdre Kelly, Judith Bacal

**Update on donations to WESTPac.**

Kathie has received eight conservator proposals, ranging from \$500 - \$3,000 for budgeting purposes. Kathie will be submitting the WESTPac annual financial report for the years 2018 and 2019, and has met with the interim Superintendent of schools regarding their preferences.

Donations to the collection, on temporary custody, are works by Liza Daugherty, James Daugherty, Estelle Margolis and Steffi Friedman.

The Friends of WESTPac Benefit brought in \$11,000.

**Poet Laureate:**

Kellie reported that Diane Mayer Lowman, Westport's poet laureate whose two-year tenure starts July 1<sup>st</sup>. She has many ideas, and has met with Bill Harmer at the Library. She is currently at a poetry workshop at Cambridge University, UK. On her return she will join us at our September meeting, and will also be present at the October TEA Talk. A new email address for Diane is to be set up through the Town and linked to the WAAC website.

**Otocast:**

Judith reported that there are a few follow ups still to do. Kellie reported that a meeting to present Otocast is to be set up with the Realtors Association, the Ys men, and Ys women groups. Kathie will be speaking to the Ys men's group on September 26<sup>th</sup> about the Town Art Collection, she will include Otocast in her presentation. An Otocast walking tour is to be developed with the Historical

Society, possible dates in October, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. A tour leader to be found, the format will be provided by WHS.

An Otocast presented by students on the Art Collection located at Staples Highschool is under discussion.

Otocast thank you emails still to be sent to all participating artists, which Judith will do. Nancy will send thank you emails to the “Let’s Connect” group.

Sculpture and art work on Otocast tours still need labels. Kathie is working on them.

### **Art in Vacant spaces:**

Miggs reported that the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County was working with Jackie Lightfield [Norwalk2.0.org] and DMA head Randy Herbertson to utilize empty stores for art exhibitions in Norwalk.

The Artist Collective in Westport has exhibited in two empty stores on Main Street. So far only one landlord in Town has been receptive to the idea. Richard and Miggs will contact other landlords in September to pursue the possibility of other locations around Westport for artists to exhibit.

The DMA will be hosting its summer art show on July 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. A number of local artists will be doing demonstrations of their work and offering hands-on experience.

### **TEA Talk:**

Angelica Durrell, Chris Bolan, Noah Steinman, and Tiffany Jackson have all confirmed their willingness to be part of TEA Talk in October. The League of Women Voters have also confirmed they will be in the Lobby before the event.

Sandy, Wendy and Carole have been working on the TEA Talk program

Opening remarks, Nancy and Richard

First Selectman, Jim Marpe

Noah Steinman [ART] – interviewer Ann Chernow. Sandy will confirm.  
Visual: photos from his book.

Chris Bolan – interviewer Wendy Morgan-Hunter  
Visual: film clip from A league of their own.

Tiffany Renee Jackson – Music. Interviewer, Jeanine Esposito. Sandy to confirm

Angelica Durrell – A short talk on how music changed her life, and her program, “Intempo” for students who play native instruments. The students will give a short presentation. This whole segment should be no longer than 5 – 10 minutes and is still in the planning stage.

Closing remarks, and presentation of Horizon Award to Noah, and maybe another award to Angelica as she is not a Westport resident.

Kathie working on the inclusion of the Rose O’Neal and suffragette movement.

Poet Laureate presentation still to be determined.

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 12 NOON, ROOM 212D**

**Meeting adjourned 1:25pm**

Elizabeth Strick

Secretary