

## Westport Arts Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Town Hall room 201

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Paul Davis, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Ginger Donaher, Donna Dish, Richard Epstein, Amie Greenspan, Lee Goldstein, William Palmer, Jilda Minikas, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Ann Boberski and Eve Covaci WestPAC.

**Unable to attend:** Eric Chiang, David Rosenwaks

**Guest:** Ifesey Gayle

**The sculpture sub-committee**, met at 11:30 prior to the WAAC 12 noon meeting. Jilda Manikas has been researching possible sculptors in the area. Please send her names of artists to be considered. William asked for a one page summary of what we are looking for so he can approach Yale graduate art students. Kathie Bennewitz will ask Lee Goldstein {she later agreed} to write a summary from are current loan form and criteria statement.

**Historic Markers:** Nancy met with Tom Kiely, operating manger, to try and find the original Remarkable Bookshop sign. She reported that Tom will track it down. In discussion with Ginger and the Gault family, a historical marker will be placed on Compo Road at the location of the Gault family Barns. Nancy and Kathie are writing the text for the marker: Ginger will approve.

Suggestions for other historical markers were Gorham Island, the Lighthouse at Longshore, WPA works in schools and photographs by David Kalman and Larry Silver.

**Bus Shelter art:** Miggs Burroughs reported that Public Works had approved one work to be installed in the spring, on the Post Road East near Schulof Animal Hospital when the weather is warmer. The Artist Collective is choosing artwork for other bus shelters around Town.

**Sculpture:** Nancy and Kathie met with Timon Malloy to review the placement of *“the Couple”* by William King, at Riverside Park. The sculpture was a donation to the Town by his mother Susan Malloy. It is hoped his Foundation will underwrite the repairs and relocation of *“The Couple”* from Earthplace to Riverside Park.

Jilda updated the committee on the earlier sculpture sub-committee meeting. Jilda will be giving a talk at the Senior Center on the sculptures that have been installed in Westport Parks.

**WestPAC:** Anne Boberski announced the opening of *“Art Jazz + the Blues”* on February 26 at 6pm at MoCA/CT The exhibit will include work by Eric von Schmidt from his *“Giants in the Blues”* series along with works by Romare Bearden, Sam Gilliam, Faith Ringold, and others.

The opening will include live music by Mark Naftalin. During the exhibitions run there will be a film screening, curators talk and the Brubeck Brothers Quartet. The exhibit closes June 7.

Anne requested, on behalf of WestPAC, that WWAC contribute \$2,000 towards the cost of framing for the exhibit. She also requested that WAAC support a Community Conversation with honoraria totaling \$1,200, \$300 for four panelists. A lengthy discussion ensued. Nancy made a motion for WAAC to support framing only and to table the discussion about the honoraria. Paul seconded all were in favor but for Richard Epstein who opposed. The discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

**Poet Laureate:** Donna has proposed three poetry lectures at the Library in the Spring. The Westport Garden Club children's poetry competition is scheduled for April 19.

**Promotion of local events on the website:** Paul asked that all information for other arts events around Town be sent to him for inclusion on our website.

**Role, if any, of WAAC in Westport 250 celebration:** Miggs suggested we invite photographs, both professional and amateur, to record the day in the life of the Town on May 28. Poetry could also be included.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 10, 2026, TOWN HALL, ROOM 201 AT 12 NOON.  
THERE WILL BE A SCULPTURE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AT 11:30 ROOM 201**

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm

Respectively submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary  
Westport Arts Advisory Committee