



**CONNECTING THE ARTS WITH THE COMMUNITY**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:30 AM**

**Norwalk Museum**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Becki Christopherson, Lynn Massey, Susan Wallerstein, Diane Jellerette, Kathy Hebert, Nori Grudin, Julyen Norman, Melissa Slattery

**Absent:** Sophia Gevas, Tony Velez, Jeff Price, Chris Bradley

**Guests:** Steven Rust, Jennifer Bangser, Dorothy Mobilia, Toni Williams (ConnCan);  
Chair, Susan Wallerstein, called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM followed by introductions and sharing

**Upcoming/Future Events:**

*October 17* Norwalk Symphony Orchestra concert, 8pm, Tchaikovsky Festival, Norwalk Concert Hall

*October 24* - Handel's Israel in Egypt; the Unitarian Church and Music on the Hill are providing the choirs, 8pm, free

*November 4* - Opening for Norwalk Mayor's Gallery Made in Norwalk show, followed by community conversation about the creative economy

*November 15* - preview show opening, Tony Velez, Norwalk Historical Society

*May 5* - Documentary on WPA at Norwalk Community College with Norwalk and Westport Historical Societies

Business

1. Motion to approve September minutes - Lynn, second Nori; passed unanimously.
2. Review and approve financial reports (operating, capital, NEA) – The chairman reviewed the status of budgets. \$14,305 have \$11,000 remaining this year; payments to Melissa Slattery for the Mayor's Gallery, Suzanne Enser-Ryan for the WPA docent program, will be paying Julyen Norman for consulting work.

Updates

1. **Mayor's Gallery** – 1st show - 3rd floor collection of student artwork, over-grown. The newest pieces for that collection became the focus for the art show. Melissa went to the schools to find out about arts programming in the schools. This show was paired with the re-organized 3rd floor collection. Set up smaller gatherings of work in memory of several people. For instance, room 231 is dedicated to Bea Brown. The Mayor's Youth Program intern helped with the student art collection and digitized it. 2nd show - Made in Norwalk - recognizing Norwalk's creative economy. Partner with Fairfield County Maker's Guild, Music Theatre of Connecticut, SoNo Entertainment. Opening celebration November 4. 3rd show - Diversity; 4th show - Arts Organizations in Norwalk The goal is to get the art of the wall to generate participation and conversation, to shine a light on the arts in Norwalk. Lynn - Fairfield County Art & Design Company on Williard Ave, impressive art shows. Steve - there should be a video component; he will reach out to relevant companies in Norwalk. Susan asked members to volunteer to serve as liaison for each show, responsible for supporting the curator with press release, refreshments, etc.
2. **Branding and Wayfinding** (Redevelopment, Economic Dev't.) – Becki reported the city engaged Zunda to create a new brand for the city of Norwalk. There have been a series of workshops and interviews to gather information about what/who Norwalk is. There is a follow up meeting in November to hear the results of the research. Susan reported there will be a report on wayfinding between SoNo & Wall St. on 10/14, 6 PM at Stepping Stones.
3. **Poet Laureate** – Susan distributed the program description launched by the library.
4. **Public Art Policy** (city owned assets) - Open, equitable opportunity to design art - get the word out; review & selection committee who brings an aesthetic sense to the evaluations; public participation. Companion piece to the Public Art Inventory. City employees have looked at the policy. We sent it to the law department and to elected officials. The law department finished their review and submitted changes, and sent us to Risk Management to review. He took the inventory and will see about getting appraisals. Mike Mocciae will take the revised policy and start it through the Norwalk Common Council in February. We have asked department heads to test the policy so we can find glitches and

tweak the policy. Julyen is charged with keeping in touch with departments to learn about new acquisitions and has found a few pieces that were not initially included.

5. **Maritime Garage Gallery** - this year it is digitized and available online; Suzee Mastropietro is the curator, the gallery is more urban than the Mayor's Gallery, 2-3 shows per year. Lynn - it's hard to find the gallery and we desperately need signage.
6. **Traffic Graphic** - We need a point person for the project: funding, curating, etc. We need a policy for adopting a box for companies and individuals. DPW owns the box so it always needs to go through them. The cost of the materials, supplies and artist is up to the organization that adopts the box. We can't do the ones that are owned by the state. The guidelines need to be written up.
7. **WPA Mural Signage** - Melissa is redoing the signage for the WPA murals; she shared samples and solicited input.

#### New Business

1. **Digital Access** for the public art inventory as well as special events, tours, etc.
2. **Opportunities & Requests** - '16-'17 budget should include a consultant to have a title like Cultural Affairs & Tourism. Jeff Price is helping with a lot of this. Waypointe has 4 archways leading to Sedona from the parking garage and would like to use them as opportunities for temporary public art installations. They also want some modern art across the street.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM**