

November 15, 2015

On behalf of the Town of Westport and as its First Selectman, I welcome you to this third TEA Talk presented by the Westport Arts Advisory Committee. Since its creation in 1991 by Bert Chernow, the committee has been active in preserving and forwarding the artistic heritage of our town.

Through the TEA Talk format, our Arts Advisory Committee brings to Westporters current thinking and trends in the arts, beyond the exhibitions and performances many of us attend on a regular basis. Past programs addressing "Technology in the Arts" and "Healing Through the Arts" have proved to be lively and thought-provoking. I am certain that today's discussions will likewise be informative and stimulating.

Teaching our youth is very important to me, and my experience as a member and subsequent chairman of the Board of Education in Westport made me acutely aware of the challenges and rewards of this task. With only so many hours available in our school day, and the explosion in the quantity of knowledge available through so many sources, the question of designing a curriculum is more complicated than ever.

I am excited to hear from today's participants, who represent the educational system at both state and local levels. Our thanks to Dr. Wentzell, the State of Connecticut's Commissioner of Education, for setting aside time from her busy schedule to be with us today. Our Westport Schools are represented by Julie Droller, who directs the elementary education curriculum, and Jody Carson. Mr. Frank Derico and Misty Beyer represent organizations that are devoted to connecting communities through the arts, as well as our inquiring panelists Kristin McKinney, Robbin Zella, and Frederic Chiu.

We anticipate that the exploration of this theme will initiate discussion well beyond the extent of this afternoon's presentation.

Thank you all for joining us today.

Sincerely,

James S. Marpe
First Selectman

PROGRAM

Welcome

Richard Epstein
Co-chair, Westport Arts Advisory Committee

Opening Remarks

The Honorable James S. Marpe, First Selectman

Introduction of Panelists

Nancy Diamond
Co-chair, Westport Arts Advisory Committee

All STEAMED Up

Kristin McKinney and Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell

Visual Literacy and Westport's 21st Century Classrooms

Robbin Zella, Julie Droller and Jody Carlson

Musical Interlude

Kate Wegener, Oboe and Max Moon, Bassoon

Music During and After School

Frederic Chiu, Frank Derico and Misty Beyer

Reception

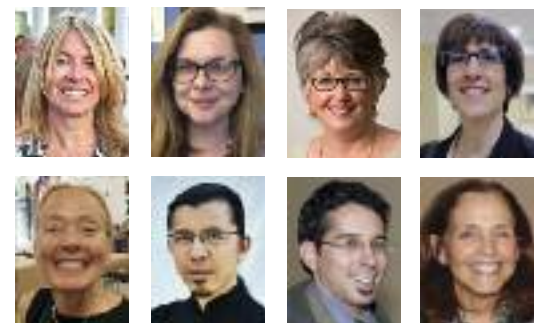
Town Hall Lobby featuring musicians from the Neighborhood Studios Jazz Ensemble

www.westportarts.org
westportartsawards@gmail.com



w a a c Westport Arts Advisory Committee

TEA
TALK
Thinkers • Educators • Artists



Three 20-minute moderated conversations on

**Where are the Arts
in Connecticut Education?**

NOV 15 • 2PM • TOWN HALL

www.WestportArts.org



**All STEAMed Up with
Kristin McKinney, Dr. Dianna Wentzell**

Kristin McKinney, film producer, arts administrator, curator, photographer, painter and writer, co-produced with veteran filmmaker Martin West and internationally acclaimed artist Ann Chernow, the award winning documentary: *Years in the Making; a Journey into Late Life Creativity* (2009). She has had two solo shows of her photography, is the former Executive Director of the Fairfield Arts Center, and is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles.

Dr. Dianna Wentzell was appointed Connecticut's Commissioner of Education by Governor Malloy in 2015 after serving as the State Department of Education's chief academic officer, overseeing the Bureau of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and the Standards Implementation Division. An educator for 25 years, Dr. Wentzell has a bachelor's degree in Russian studies from Mount Holyoke, a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Hartford.



**Visual Literacy and Westport's
21st Century Classrooms
Robbin Zella, Julie Droller and Jody Carlson**

Robbin Zella, Executive Director at the Housatonic Museum of Art (HMA) in Bridgeport, has organized over 80 exhibitions at the HMA. She was formerly the director of the Akus Gallery at Eastern Connecticut State University and the Artworks Gallery in Hartford

Julie Droller, Director of Elementary Education for Westport Public Schools, is the former Principal of Saugatuck Elementary in Westport and Veterans Park School in Ridgefield. She was K-5 Literacy Coordinator in Darien. Julie has studied and led professional development in the use of visual literacy in content area instruction.

Jody Carlson has taught elementary art for the past 17 years in the Westport Public Schools. She is passionate about both art and science as well as student's process of learning and thinking. Jody graduated from Skidmore College with a BS in Art and Science and has an MA in Education from Fairfield University. She regularly attends workshops on visual literacy and the visual thinking and inquiry methods at the Yale and Harvard art museums.



**Music During and After School with
Frederic Chiu, Frank Derico and Misty Beyer**

Frederic Chiu, world-renowned piano impresario and teacher, performs in major venues on five continents; he has released over 25 recordings including the complete piano works of Prokofiev. At his multi-year series, *Classical Smackdown*, composers face off in head-to-head comparisons, with listeners voting for their favorite composer. Frederic's teaching program, *Deeper Piano Studies*, has been presented at Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, the New England Conservatory, and the National Conservatories in China. He and his wife, Jeanine Esposito, are co-founders of Beechwood Arts in Westport.

Frank Derico, Executive Director of Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County (NS) in Bridgeport, had been its Program Director for eleven years. Under his management, NS won the 2005 President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities *Coming Up Taller Award*. Frank graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Bridgeport and holds a Credential in Afterschool Education.

Misty Beyer, Executive Program Director for Music for Youth, has been a board member of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and Connecticut Dance School. After receiving her BSNursing from University of Colorado, she continued her studies in music and early childhood education.



**The goals of the Committee, founded in 1994
by the late Burt Chernow, are to:**

- Enhance the visibility of the arts in our community
- Serve as a bridge between the arts and education
- Encourage cohesiveness among artists, arts and cultural organizations and the general public
- Strengthen the role the arts play in the lives of Westport residents
- Preserve Westport's artistic heritage
- Perpetuate Westport as a thriving center for artistic and cultural activity

Westport Arts Advisory Committee

Nancy Diamond & Richard Epstein, Co-chairs
Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Ann Chernow,
Frederic Chiu, Kristin Fox, Sandra Lefkowitz, Deirdre Price,
Katherine Ross, Elise Russi, Carole Schweid, Ann Sheffer,
John Simon, Elizabeth Strick