

Star of Hope Update - Why a Community Survey?

By now, we hope that everyone understands that the Star of Hope Foundation, which was set up by Robert Indiana in 2016, is using a number of tools to collect your ideas and suggestions about how best to move forward with implementing the Foundation's mission. Thanks to all who have participated so far in the community meetings, and by filling out the survey.

We know that some people find community meetings challenging. Evening meetings can be difficult to attend; they can be hard for people who have trouble seeing or hearing; and they can even be intimidating. For these reasons, the Foundation also decided to implement a community survey, so that **everyone** could participate in this process. The survey takes an average of 20 minutes to complete, and asks questions such as how you hope to see the Star of Hope building on Main Street used, assuming it is renovated; and how important some of the programs, such as youth art education or performing arts programs, might be to the community.

The Foundation continues to make a concerted effort to reach out to everyone who is part of this community – those of you who were born here, year round residents, summer residents, and newcomers. The Board of the Foundation has said that it will not make any decisions about how to move ahead with the real estate, the artwork and any possible educational programming, until the community engagement process is over. In other words, if you have strong feelings about what could happen in Vinalhaven, as it relates to the mission of the Star of Hope Foundation, this is your chance to speak up.

The Mission of the Star of Hope Foundation is: to promote education of the visual arts through various means including exhibitions, a museum, artist-in-residence programs and other outreach endeavors.

Our update this week is a result of the survey being mailed out to all households, and yet a number of people have said they do not wish to participate in this process. We understand that there will always be a range of opinions and some very strong feelings about the artist, his artwork, his involvement in the community, as well as the legal battles that are underway. We ask that you consider reviewing the survey and at least answering any questions that are relevant to you, your family, your future and the future of this community. Every individual in the household is encouraged to participate. The responses are anonymous - no one will know 'who said what.'

Because of the October storm and the delayed community meeting schedule, the new deadline for submitting your survey is December 2, 2019.

We also wish to acknowledge that there were problems with the mailing list which caused delivery issues. We want to thank to the local post office for helping solve these issues! While we used the Vinalhaven property tax list to mail out paper copies of the survey, unfortunately there was a mix-up sorting the list, so some people received the survey but the name associated with the address wasn't theirs. Rest assured that the survey is generic. There is only one version, and we hope that you will fill it out and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope. Or, you can complete the survey online:

<http://survey2portlandresearch.com/cfmc/prg/starofhope/>

Reminder: the next Community Meeting is on Nov 19th from 5-7 p.m. at The Union Church. Please let us know if you have any questions. Email us at starofhope@starofhopefoundation.org or visit our website to sign up for regular updates: www.starofhopefoundation.org