

The Star of Hope Foundation

Community Meeting ~ August 27, 2019

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

It is this mission on which the Foundation plans to focus, and have productive dialog with the people of Vinalhaven through a series of community meetings, starting in August 2019.

The Foundation made a presentation to the Town of Vinalhaven earlier this year, and shared its mission and its focus for coming months and years. This included 5 major areas and progress is underway:

1. Governance – putting in place a Board of Directors and hiring people to assist when necessary;
2. Community Engagement –allowing The Foundation to explore opportunities to benefit the community;
3. Real Estate – attending to 4 properties in need of review and repair;
4. Robert Indiana's Artwork & Intellectual Property – considering all the aspects of a valuable body of work;
5. Programs – planning what the Star of Hope Foundation plans to pursue, such as educational opportunities, artists-in-residence, seminars, exhibitions, as well as establishing partnerships, sponsorships, and promoting the visual arts.

The Foundation is making progress, some of which is visible. And our work continues.

Regarding Governance: Our Board has helped with the development of an initial strategy and provided guidance in setting up all the systems that are required to run an organization such as the Foundation: finance, reporting, operations, and the actions associated with the real estate holdings.

Regarding Community Engagement: We are hosting four community meetings, and implementing a community-wide survey, in order to gather broad input on what the Foundation might do to complement other initiatives that are in the works in Vinalhaven. Our plan is to gather input (not just about the Star of Hope building, but about the art and possibilities a situation like this presents); and to use this data in the development of a long-term plan with actionable, measurable objectives.

Regarding the Real Estate: In collaboration with the Estate, the Foundation has taken the very necessary steps to stabilize the building on Main Street. Contacts have been executed with Horch Roofing to replace the roof and with Seacoast Security to provide security and temperature monitoring inside the building. We are also finalizing proposal(s) for the much larger project associated with the stabilization of the Star of Hope building. As the crew gets working on this project, our focus will be to get the majority of the first phase of this very large

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undertaking, mainly the exterior stabilization and pest removal, finalized so repairs and restoration of the building can begin. We are also finalizing plans to conduct a significant analysis of all (4) properties in order to establish a baseline of condition, and assess possibilities for the future of all the real estate.

Regarding Art & Intellectual Property: Given that Robert Indiana was one of the most renowned American pop artists of the 20th century, The Foundation is involved in inventorying and assessing Indiana's artwork.

Regarding Programs: The Foundation will develop a plan that promotes the artwork, pursues collaborative partnerships with other art institutions, considers opportunities for education and research, and helps support numerous arts and arts education opportunities.

The Star of Hope Foundation looks forward to a robust community engagement phase and to hearing from the residents of Vinalhaven. Please contact us anytime at starofhope@starofhopefoundation.org or visit our website at www.starofhopefoundation.org