

Robert Indiana's Real Estate Holdings Transferred from his Estate to the Star of Hope Foundation

On September 13th, 2019 the Star of Hope Foundation and the Estate of Robert Indiana finalized a collaborative, cooperative negotiation in order to transfer four properties on Vinalhaven owned by the late Robert Indiana from his estate to the Foundation which he created in 2016.

Indiana, before his death in 2018, had lived for 40 years in the historically significant Star of Hope building at 46 Main Street. He also owned property at 10 Main Street, 3 Clamshell Alley, and 7 Windy Way. All four properties are now in possession of the Foundation which allows for continued work to stabilize and assess the real estate.

Larry Sterrs, Chairman of the Star of Hope Foundation commented on the transaction. "This is an important step in the process that allows the Foundation to move ahead with what needs to happen in order to ensure the viability of the real estate. In the short term, it means that the Foundation can fully stabilize and assess the real estate assets Robert Indiana left to the Foundation. In the long term, the transfer signals that the Foundation will be able to fulfill the mission Robert Indiana intended for the organization."

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.

While Robert Indiana lived sequestered in the Star of Hope building for decades, surrounded by his own art as well as his art collection, it is clear that he wanted his work to be seen both in Maine and beyond after he died, and felt strongly that the community should benefit from his artistic legacy.

Very recently, the Foundation has been focused on stabilizing the Star of Hope building and ensuring that it does not further deteriorate. In addition, the Foundation has implemented a community engagement process to solicit ideas and suggestions about the town's future. The community meetings currently underway, and the survey which will be distributed this month, will help inform the board as to what exactly is feasible and appropriate for the community. A detailed plan for the real estate will be developed by the Star of Hope Foundation board in 2020.

Thanks to all who attended the first and / or second community meeting. Your involvement is much appreciated and the ideas that are surfacing are very helpful. The next community meeting will be held on October 17th from 5:30 -7 p.m. Notices about this meeting location will be made available in The Wind.

Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up on the Foundation's website in order to get regular news and updates: www.starofhopefoundation.org