

## **Questions & Answers about the Star of Hope Foundation**

### **Did Robert Indiana create this Foundation?**

The Star of Hope Foundation was created and incorporated by Robert Indiana in August 2016, and later that year, with all of the necessary paperwork submitted, the IRS approved and granted the Foundation 501c3 (non-profit) status. He and his fellow board members discussed the vision for the Foundation and wrote its mission:

*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.*

### **Did Robert Indiana expect there would be a museum on Vinalhaven?**

Mr. Indiana wanted his artwork to be seen both in Maine and beyond. The community engagement effort that is currently underway will help inform the board as to what exactly is feasible and appropriate for this community. A number of ideas have surfaced, but no decisions have been made.

### **Is the Foundation considering the impact that a museum would have on this community?**

Yes. Fully understanding what this community wants and is capable of supporting is very important to the Foundation. The Foundation is also interested in cooperating with the town given its planning effort, both with the comprehensive and downtown master plans.

### **Who are the Foundation Board members and will the board grow in size?**

The Board has 4 members: Larry Sterrs, Board Chairman, runs the Unity Foundation which helps compromised non-profits take necessary steps in order to remain viable. Larry was elected unanimously by the current board members to serve as Chair. Patricia King also serves on the board and brings a deep rooted connection to the art world as well as expertise in strategic and organizational planning for arts organizations, including Colby College Museum of Art and Waterville Creates!. Kris Davidson and Jamie Thomas, both year-round Vinalhaven residents, also serve on the board. While the Board is expected to grow in size over time, it will probably not add new members until a long-term plan is created, which will be developed after the community engagement process.

### **Could there be an Advisory Committee to the Board?**

Yes, there could be such a committee formed in the future in order to tap local expertise and specific skills.

### **If the Estate is embroiled in a lawsuit, how can the Foundation really make any progress?**

The Foundation is indeed making progress. It is not a party to, nor does it take a position on the lawsuit. The Foundation has funds of its own in order to stabilize the Star of Hope building on Main Street, and move forward with the community engagement process. Both of these things are underway, and as of September 13, 2019, the Foundation and the Estate finalized a collaborative and cooperative

negotiation, signed all of the necessary paperwork, and the Foundation became the owner of these real estate assets, allowing for additional design and engineering work to move ahead.

**What does it mean to stabilize the building?**

It means tightening it up, repairing the roof so it no longer leaks, dealing with the pests that have been living inside for quite some time, installing safety, security and temperature control devices, and making sure the building doesn't further deteriorate. Once the stabilization process is complete, the next step will be to assess all of the real estate and determine how it could be renovated and used for future opportunities.

**Which properties were part of the Estate and are now owned by the Foundation?**

The Star of Hope Lodge building at 46 Main Street; 3 Clamshell Alley, 10 Main Street and 7 Windy Way.

**Will the Foundation give priority to local interests and community needs?**

Yes. It was Robert Indiana's intention for his estate to benefit the local community, and depending on what information the Foundation gathers during the community engagement process, local programs that serve the Vinalhaven residents will be developed.

**Is there outside or national interest in what happens with Robert Indiana's art and intellectual property?**

There is serious interest in these assets, for good reason. Robert Indiana is one of the preeminent 20<sup>th</sup> American artists and his work is renowned world-wide. His artworks, as well as his art collection, are significant and must be handled appropriately.

**Is the Farnsworth Museum involved?**

Not at this point. Perhaps they will become a partner or collaborator, but this relationship has not been determined as of now.

**How can I stay informed and involved?**

Ongoing communication is an important part of the process. For regular email updates, please sign up on our website: [www.starofhopefoundation.org](http://www.starofhopefoundation.org). You may also email us at [starofhope@starofhopefoundation.org](mailto:starofhope@starofhopefoundation.org) with any questions or concerns.