

This is the seventh in a series of updates about the Star of Hope Foundation, which was established by the artist Robert Indiana prior to his death. The purpose of the Foundation is to support arts education and working artists in Maine.

An update on the Archives and more

In addition to the disposition of real estate and valuables, such as artwork, settling an estate also involves making decisions about personal belongings, particularly when the deceased was famous or prominent in his or her field.

We have reported to you on the status of Robert Indiana's real estate and art collection, but the Foundation also received all of his personal belongings, including papers, memorabilia, correspondence, photographs, books, household furnishings and vehicles.

Decisions about the disposition of these items will occur over time. A priority for the Foundation board is ensuring that Mr. Indiana's papers, memorabilia, correspondence, and photographs will be available to researchers and the general public in the future.

The board has voted that these items should find a permanent home at the [Archives of American Art](#) (AAA) – part of the Smithsonian Institution – in Washington, D.C., and correspondence of Mr. Indiana's suggests this path is consistent with his wishes. We anticipate that these archives will be passed along to the AAA this year.

The AAA is the world's preeminent and most widely used research center dedicated to collecting, preserving, and providing access to primary sources that document the history of the visual arts in America. The AAA will carefully inventory the items donated to them, and in the coming years some or all of them will become accessible in the AAA's online database.

Mr. Indiana was a meticulous collector of information and correspondence. In addition to being a prodigious chronicler of his own doings, he routinely kept invitations, greeting cards, letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs. This archival collection is significant because it provides so much valuable information – not just about Robert Indiana's life, but also about the times in which he lived.

On Friday, April 12th, Star of Hope Foundation Managing Director will be at the Vinalhaven Public Library from 10:30-12:30 to informally talk with community members. She is specifically interested in gathering input on the timing of a community session to discuss the green space design for 3 Clam Shell Alley. We hope you'll stop by.