

2020 SIC Update for the All Star I Governing Council Fall Meeting

After being closed for conferences in 2020, we approached 2021 with an overriding goal – getting Shoalers back to the Island – because that is our mission, and the reason we exist as a corporation... to provide a place where together we can have a safe, fun, meaningful and spiritual time as a community in a beautiful, familiar environment that we each consider to be “our spirit’s home.” While some things on the Island have been different, given the realities of 2021, conferees are overwhelmingly happy to be back together, and some innovations driven by COVID appear to be “keepers!” We would like to thank all who worked tirelessly to make the 2021 season happen: returning and new(!) conferees; volunteers; pelicans; senior staff; and those who were unable to come but continued their support. THANK YOU for making this season happen!

- Following is a recap of 2020 results:
 - FY2020 Annual Fund (Actual): \$1,050,379 (vs. original budget (pre-pandemic) of \$555,000 and revised budget of \$800,000)
 - FY2020 Net Income: \$344,981 (vs. original budget (pre-pandemic) of \$202,699 and revised budget of (\$762,878))
 - FY2020 Bed Nights: 0
 - FY2020 Capital Budget was revised from the original (pre-pandemic) of \$575,540 to \$411,039.
- And our 2021 final budget, which incorporated a plan for approximately 60% of usual occupancy due to health and safety considerations:
 - Bed Nights: 11,255
 - Annual Fund: \$590,000
 - Net Income: \$44,643
 - Capital Budget \$311,855
- As we enter the final month of our 2021 season, we are on track to meet our Annual Fund goal, on track to meet our budget for capital spending, and on track to exceed our net income target.
- After 2020’s \$300,000 loan from the Federal Small Business Association Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which was fully forgiven, we received a second PPP loan in February 2021 of \$868,526 which we are on track to have forgiven as well.
- We have applied for a 2020 Employee Retention Credit of \$103,000, offered by the IRS as part of the CARES act, which we expect to receive by year-end.

This season, numerous improvements, large and small, happened on-Island, including exterior improvements on Cottage D, IT upgrades for increased bandwidth and live streaming capabilities that were extensively used during our conference, and a new performance stage attached to Marshman, which our conference suggested and has allowed for outdoor shows in the Stone Village that have been a huge hit!

Many of our fellow All Star I family members provide leadership in the greater Star Community. This includes five SIC board members: Liz Erickson, Jeff Loewer, Louise Williams, Dr Rev Leon Dunkley and Patricia Coleman (ISA-UU President ex-officio). Additionally, we provide leadership and technical expertise on numerous staff and operating committees including the following: Permanent Trust- David Yermack (chair), Liz Erickson, Jeff Loewer (ex-officio); Nominating- Tricia Coleman; Membership – Marlene Smurzynski and Caroline Quijada (chair); Conference Services - Liz Erickson; Finance – Jeff Loewer (chair), Bill Peterson; Committee on Appointments – Scott Stewart; Strategic

Facilities – Jill Loewer; Fund Development – Barbara Peterson; Rutledge Marine Lab – Bill Gimpel, Katie Martell, Cyndy Parr; Island Heritage and Artifacts – Adam Osgood (chair), Sarah Mills, Lois Williams; Council of Conferences – Louise Williams; Health Committee – Marlene Smurzynski; Outreach & Engagement Committee – Ali Walton.

In October of 2020, the SIC Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Resolution that addresses the important work we need to focus on in three key areas: Community, Public Health, and the Environment. From the introduction:

“We are still in the midst of a prolonged pandemic, which has adversely affected all of us and directly impacted the operations of Star Island Corporation with the closure of the conference center for the 2020 season. Our society is also in the process of reckoning with the continuing racist oppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, brought once again to the forefront of public dialogue by horrific acts of violence. Additionally, our planet is confronted by an urgent climate crisis, which will persist as we wrestle with these significant challenges. These issues and the work required to address them impact us all, but they also represent an opportunity in this defining moment for Star Island, our nation, and our world. The Star Island Corporation (SIC) intends to address these myriad challenges as we plan for the long-term health, stability, and growth of our conference center, our organization, and our community.”

I would encourage all to read the full text of the resolution as linked below:

<https://starisland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Strategic-Resolution-2020.pdf>

While 2022 will likely greet us with continued uncertainty, our community rallied in 2021 and many who were able to join us on the Island realized how important it was to gather. We deeply appreciate the support many of you have given that has allowed us to continue, and deeply appreciate the continued support of All Star 1. We have adapted to face the challenges of the present and are confident that the SIC can continue to offer the Island as the place where All Star 1 can continue as a community and that the long-standing traditions of All Star 1 will survive and thrive!

Jeff Loewer
Board Treasurer, Star Island Corporation
September 2021