

# CAIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## What is Cain Center for the Arts?

A diverse, not-for-profit arts organization that will operate a facility that will be a place for creativity, learning, entertainment and enjoyment. The Center was established as a 501-c-3 in 2017. It will be a hub of arts and entertainment that will serve the entire Lake Norman and North Mecklenburg community. The new arts center will also serve as an anchor for the arts district in Old Town Cornelius. It will also be a place to hold community, private or civic events and will serve as a force for creative momentum within the Lake Norman area and beyond.

Formerly known as the Cornelius Arts Center, Cain Center for the Arts is named for local community leaders and philanthropists Bill and Ericka Cain.

## What is Cain Center for the Arts doing to help inform the public about this project?

**SINCE JUNE OF 2017**, we have held regular public information sessions. We have also attended regular community events such as 'Tawba Walk, 2nd Fridays, Symphony in the Park, and more in an effort to update the public about this exciting project. We are continuously looking for new platforms that will allow us to spread the word.

## IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO PRESENT, PLEASE EMAIL:

[aovercash@corneliusarts.org](mailto:aovercash@corneliusarts.org)

## Where is the planned location?

The Town has purchased 1.85 acres in downtown Cornelius adjacent to the police station to house the future arts center.

## I've heard of CCAG but how is that different than this effort?

The Cornelius Cultural Arts Group (CCAG) is a non profit 501-c-3 founded by local residents in 2013 to support the local arts movement in Cornelius. CCAG is the entity that produces local events like 'Tawba Walk and 2nd Friday. Cain Center for the Arts (CCA), a newly formed non-profit will operate the programs within the town's new Arts Center while CCAG will continue to pursue its mission of supporting artists throughout the Cornelius Arts district. These organizations remain independent of each other.

## WHY CONSTRUCT AN ARTS CENTER?

In 2013 Cornelius residents approved a \$4 million bond project for downtown redevelopment projects.

After much research and conversation, a need for a community arts center was identified to complement the already thriving arts district in Old Town Cornelius. There is a definite demand for more community spaces, particularly as the topic relates to the arts. Besides traditional visual, performing and cultural arts, the space will have additional classrooms and community rooms that can be used for a variety of disciplines. Here, there will be something for everyone. This Center will further establish this area as a cultural catalyst and will help foster and sustain the Town's vitality.

## Will the facility be able to use the old cotton gin? What will happen to the blue buildings on the site?

We acknowledge the historic importance of the former cotton gin to the culture of Cornelius. The structure of the old cotton gin is not economically or functionally able to accommodate the goals of the Center. The actual wood structure would need to be completely re-designed to meet current codes and be safe for a large assembly space such as a theater or gallery space. This would cost more than the budget would allow. Also, functionally, the types of spaces needed require more height than exists within the existing building. We are attempting to utilize some reclaimed lumber from the building at various locations within the Center. Also, the design of the theater structural members may be wood, which is a nod to the history of these older structures and adds warmth to the building. Unfortunately, the blue buildings will need to be demolished.

## WHAT WILL THE CENTER INCLUDE?

**Our goal is to provide exceptional visual arts, performing arts and social experiences to the North Mecklenburg and Lake Norman region.**

The facility will be a catalyst for related business and residential growth in downtown Cornelius and beyond. The facility will bring a capability for presenting high quality arts, entertainment, and education to the Lake Norman Region. This offers an alternative to traveling to Charlotte and will be a community meeting place for arts lovers of all ages and backgrounds.

## Have you chosen an architect?

After reviewing 12 submissions from architects located both in North Carolina and other areas of the country we partnered with C Design (Charlotte, NC) who is collaborating with Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture (New York, NY). Previously, architect Malcolm Holzman designed ImaginOn and The Joe and Joan Martin Center, both in Uptown Charlotte.

## When is the groundbreaking for Cain Center for the Arts?

Groundbreaking for the facility is currently undetermined.

## How large will it be?

The size will depend on the level of private and corporate donor financial support we receive. Our goal is to construct a complex that will provide adequate venues for a variety of performing and visual arts and educational activities.

## How much will it cost?

The Town of Cornelius has donated the land and pledged \$4 million dollars from municipal bonds to Cain Center for the Arts. To complete the project as it is fully envisioned will require substantial fundraising. We do not have a final cost estimate for the project yet. The Center is currently working with architects, developers, and the Town of Cornelius to determine final costs for site preparation and site development.

## WHILE EXACT PLANS CANNOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL FUNDRAISING IS NEAR COMPLETE, WE ANTICIPATE THE COMPLEX MAY INCLUDE:



Attractive plaza and outdoor space



Classrooms for music, visual arts, dance, workshops & more



Theater with state-of-art acoustics



Art galleries for local/national exhibits



Classroom/multi-purpose rooms

# WHAT KINDS OF PROGRAMMING PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS FOR CAIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS?

In October 2017, Cain Center for the Arts conducted a market study in order to determine what residents most wanted in an Arts Center. The study identified performing arts (theater, music, dance) including national, regional, and local productions, as the top source of public interest. Space for youth education, including dance classes, theater classes and art classes, was also identified as a primary need for the facility. The need for rental space was also determined to be of importance to the community.

## What contributions has the Center received so far?

Local community leaders and philanthropists Bill and Erika Cain provided a generous lead gift of five million dollars to the Center's comprehensive campaign. Additionally, the state of North Carolina has supported our project with more than \$325,000 in grants. We have also received operating donations from private donors including board members, local businesses and members of the public.

## Has the Center started its capital campaign?

Our capital campaign has not yet started. The Center will begin a capital campaign once details for the Center's location have been finalized. The campaign will rely on philanthropic support from public and private entities.

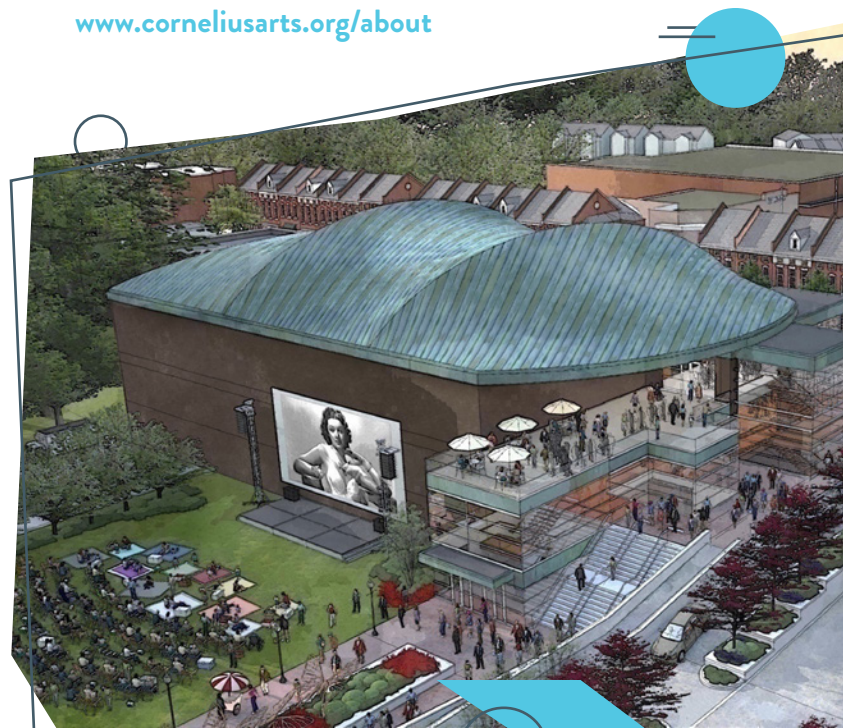
## Who will run the Center?

The Cain Center for the Arts (a 501-c-3 IRS entity) has agreed with the Town of Cornelius to manage the Center on a owner-operator business model. The strategic vision of the Center is driven by Board of Directors consisting of 13 area residents. Additionally, there is an Advisory Board (non-voting) that works closely with the Board of Directors. After a national search, the Board of Directors hired Justin Dionne to serve as the Center's first Executive Director who is responsible for day-to-day operations. Dionne assumed his role on June 5, 2017.

## Who is currently on the Cain Center for the Arts board?

Our organization is governed by a Board of Directors and Advisory Board. These are a diverse group of volunteers who give their time and financial support to our cause. They represent Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Mooresville, and Charlotte. Each member brings an assortment of skill sets and talents to the board. Many members have also worked with nonprofit arts organizations and served on boards for nonprofit arts organizations and they bring a wealth of knowledge to this effort. A list of our Board and Advisory Board members can be found on our website at:

[www.corneliusarts.org/about](http://www.corneliusarts.org/about)



# HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Visit our website - [www.cainarts.org](http://www.cainarts.org). Here, you can register to volunteer and/or register to be kept “in the know” with periodical updates. The best way you can help currently is to spread the word. Be sure to “like” us on social media and tell your friends to do the same! We have many excited things coming up and will need all the help we can to keep the excitement going. Welcome aboard!!!!



## Can I donate money now?

We are currently registered as a nonprofit and can accept gifts. We are happy to take any donation you would like to give to our current operation. If you are interested in giving to our project we encourage you to contact our executive director:

**JUSTIN A.  
DIONNE**

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