

# Herald Citizen

## Mecklenburg County commits \$1 million to Cain Center

*By jdeem@lakenormanpublications.com on June 18, 2020*



A rendering shows the exterior of the Cain Center for the Arts.

Courtesy of Cain Center

Mecklenburg County on Thursday announced it is committing \$1 million to help fund development of the Cain Center for the Arts in Cornelius.

“I am very excited to see this project gain momentum,” said District 1 County Commissioner and Vice Chair Elaine Powell, who represents northern Mecklenburg. “The new Cain Center will bring the community together as one. ... My fellow commissioners and I all agree that this project is a gem.”

Cain Center for the Arts is the central component of a plan for economic revitalization in the northern part of Mecklenburg County. The center will be on Catawba Avenue at the heart of the emerging Cornelius Arts District, and is expected to serve more than 300,000 Lake Norman residents. Plans for the center include a 400-seat theater, art gallery, classrooms, and an outdoor plaza and greenspace.

“We look forward to putting this funding to work for the citizens of Cornelius and the Lake Norman region,” said Cornelius Mayor Woody Washam. “As we work through the specifics of how the funds will come to us, there is no doubt that the impact of this leadership support from Mecklenburg County will be great. We are grateful to the county for this investment and look forward to an ongoing partnership.”

Final renderings for the center have been released, and plans for clearing the future site are underway. Nearly \$17 million has been committed toward a capital campaign goal of \$25 million.

“Mecklenburg County’s investment is important to this project for so many reasons,” said Justin Dionne, Cain Center for the Arts executive director. “We are so grateful for the commissioners’ leadership, partnership and shared vision for the power of the arts to transform communities.”