

CBJ Morning Buzz: DNC event in play for Charlotte; Uptown to light up for Juneteenth

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In north Mecklenburg, the development plan for the Cain Center for the Arts has gotten a boost from Mecklenburg County commissioners who approved \$1 million for the development earlier this month. The Cain Center, to be located on Catawba Avenue in the Cornelius Arts District, will 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.

Mecklenburg County commissioners voted to include the funding in the fiscal 2021 budget. Nearly \$17 million dollars has been raised for the \$25 million project.

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

The town of Cornelius allocated \$4 million out of a \$20 million municipal bond to create an arts district and in 2017 bought the 1.85-acre site for the complex.

New renderings of the development were released last month. The arts center is named for Ericka and William Cain, owners of Financial Independence Group in Cornelius, who donated \$5 million in 2018.