

Herald Citizen

Cashions commit \$500,000 to Cain Center

By jdeem@lakenormanpublications.com on November 15, 2019



A rendering of the planned Cain Center for the Arts.

CORNELIUS – A local family is building on its generations-long legacy of supporting charitable causes in the Lake Norman area with a \$500,000 commitment to the Cain Center for the Arts.

Louise Cashion announced her family’s commitment to the center, which will be a regional venue for performing and visual arts in downtown Cornelius. The center’s entryway will be named for the Cashions.

“Through the years our family has been proud to support the projects and organizations that make this community such a wonderful place to live and work for everyone who lives here,” Cashion said. “Cain Center for the Arts is something we need now and something future generations need as well – a place for the whole community to gather, learn and experience great entertainment.”

As owners of Cashion's Food Mart Inc. – which operates four stores in Huntersville and Cornelius – Robert and Louise Cashion established a policy of giving 1 percent of their sales revenue to community organizations. They have been honored with local and national awards, including the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year, which now is named for Robert Cashion.

The nonprofit Cain Center for the Arts was established in 2017 and is in the midst of a \$25 million campaign to fund construction of the center, which will be built on Catawba Avenue, across from Cornelius Town Hall. The center said Friday it is more than halfway toward its campaign goal.

"We're incredibly honored to have the support of the Cashion family," said Justin Dionne, executive director of Cain Center for the Arts. "The Cashion name has been a symbol of this community's welcoming spirit for many years, and now the Cashion Entryway at Cain Center for the Arts will be a lasting symbol of this core value, as we work to welcome all members of the community through our doors."

The center will be named for Bill and Ericka Cain, who donated \$5 million to the project. Town bond funds of \$4 million also are going toward development of the complex.

The center will include a 400-seat theater, gallery space, an outdoor venue and classrooms.