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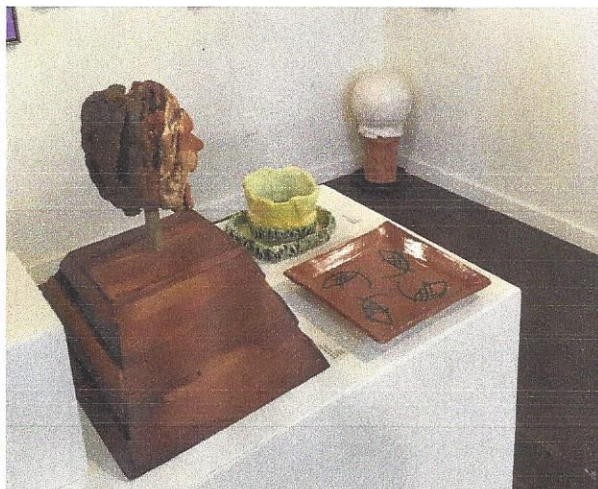
Cain Center, Cornelius Arts Center partnership plans continue to gel

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Visual art programs once operated by the town's Cornelius Arts Center will be taken over by the Cain Center for the Arts. /Courtesy of

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CORNELIUS – The long-planned merger of the The Cain Center for the Arts and the Cornelius Arts Center (CAC) will become official in September, following a year-long delay attributed to COVID-19 conditions.

The merger includes management of all visual arts programs and activities as well as day-to-day CAC operations at Oak Street Mill in downtown Cornelius. The partnership is expected to expand and enhance the Town's arts programs. Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Director Troy Fitzsimmons said similar partnerships have resulted in continued growth and high-quality programs, fueling expectations for the same type of success from the Cain Center and CAC collaboration.

A seamless transfer of operations with minimal impact to CAC students and program participants is anticipated, with the collaboration continuing the spirit of promoting art appreciation and participation. The release of a full calendar of activities is expected to align with the merger.

This transition has been managed by a transition task force that included members of the PARC Commission and Cain Center for the Arts staff and board.

News of the planned transition schedule also includes the announcement of Megan King's appointment as program director, with duties to oversee CAC activities before becoming Cain This announcements come while preparations are in progress at the Cain Center site off Catawba Avenue near N.C. 115 in the downtown area. A groundbreaking celebration is scheduled for the spring with the goal set to have the multi-faceted regional arts and culture hub open for the 2022 holiday season.

In response to the scheduled combination of operations, Cain Center Executive Director Justin Dionne said it was another indication the vision for a broad-based and far-reaching arts and cultural community hub was moving toward reality.

"We're excited to have the opportunity to continue growing this important visual arts program," Dionne said, "and to continue building our relationship with the artists, teachers, and students who've helped it thrive through the years."

While plans are being finalized, the arts and cultural partnership in Cornelius remains a work in progress, with area residents encouraged to get involved by signing up for email updates at cainarts.org.

Artists and patrons are also encouraged to participate in the arts programs and activities made possible by the partnership.

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