



Rendering created by C Design in Association with Steinberg Hart.

# Coming Soon to the Lake Norman Region: Cain Center for the Arts

Contributed by the Cain Center for the Arts

generous \$5M gift from the Cain family. This leaves approximately \$7M to be raised for the project to reach its goal.

Members of the community who are interested in supporting the initiative can get involved in several different ways:

- Local families or businesses have the option to become a lasting part of the Cain Center for the Arts through their unique Brick Campaign, where you can purchase one of three different sizes of personalized laser engraved bricks that will be permanently installed in the center's outdoor plaza or interior lobby
- Volunteer opportunities are available to help spread the word and pitch in at special events

More information on how to get involved, volunteer or become a community captain can be found at [cainarts.org/join-us](http://cainarts.org/join-us). For more information on the brick campaign, visit [www.cainarts.org/bricks](http://www.cainarts.org/bricks).

Donors who pledge a gift of \$2,500 or more prior to groundbreaking will

In 2013, Cornelius residents passed a historic bond package that approved \$4M for economic redevelopment and for the installation of an arts district that would anchor the community's vision for a new downtown experience. After extensive study and community outreach, it became clear the local demand for a place for the community to experience performing arts, visual arts and arts education in a public setting. Soon after, the Cain Center for the Arts was born.

The project entails the construction of a brand-new 400-seat theatre that will provide a state-of-the-art venue to showcase live theatre performances, concerts and other arts productions. In addition to the main stage and auditorium, the Cain Center for the Arts will feature gallery space for visual arts, event spaces, an outdoor plaza with community green space, and three classrooms to offer interactive arts programs for residents of all ages to tap into their imagination.

In 2016, a nonprofit organization was formed to operate separately from the town and manage the project and advance fundraising efforts for the joint private-public partnership. Led by a volunteer Board of Directors and Executive Director Justin Dionne, the overarching goal is to provide high-quality arts programs through partnership with established community organizations. While the physical venue is key to the project, community outreach will be the driving force that expands exposure and interaction with the arts for all area residents, not just in Cornelius but throughout neighboring Lake Norman communities.

To date, significant partnerships have been formed, including cooperation with the Ada Jenkins Center, Learn Music and the Cornelius Davidson Child Development Center. In September 2021, the Cain Center will integrate with the Cornelius Arts Center. Synergy with local arts and community organizations will best generate a broad range of programming to include entertainment, educational outreach and opportunities for local artists of all ages to showcase their talents. The Cain Center for the Arts envisions a beautiful, centralized community hub where the performing arts, visual arts and unique social experiences can thrive. A place where students and neighbors from all walks of life can come together and feel pride in their community.

Architectural final designs and drawings for the new building are complete, and demolition is underway and moving steadily to prepare the site for the new construction. At present, groundbreaking is scheduled for the spring of 2021, either in May or potentially in late April. If all goes as planned, the building will open by holiday season 2022. In the meantime, services will be offered out of the Cornelius Arts Center location starting in September 2021.

The total cost to complete the center and open its doors to the public is estimated to be around \$25M. This includes every facet of the project, from the purchase of the land to the physical construction, equipment and furnishings, plus professional services and administrative costs. To date, the organization is pleased to announce that the Lake Norman community has stepped forward to raise close to \$18M, including the

be honored with membership in The Founders' Society. Membership includes permanent recognition in the completed center and special members-only benefits, including advance ticket information for events and performances. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Anita Overcash at 980-689-3101 for more information.

The center's vision for the future is simple: To build a stronger community through the power of the arts. Connecting with the arts is so much more than joy or entertainment, the arts empowers children and adults alike to experience, explore and above all else, create. Creativity is the foundation on which growth is built, not just on the easel or the stage but in the community where you live, work, and play. The Cain Center for the Arts will not just make the Lake Norman region a better place to live. It will inspire everyone in the community to do the extraordinary.



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