

Paving the Way

The Cain Center for the Arts rolls out new fundraising opportunity

The Cain Center for the Arts has announced the date for the opening of its highly anticipated new facility—December 2022. The concept for the new venue stems from a public-private partnership between the Center—a nonprofit—and the Town of Cornelius, and it will serve as an anchor for a new arts district in the area.

The center is named for Bill and Ericka Cain, two local philanthropists who donated \$5 million to the project. Total funds needed equal \$25 million, of which over \$17 have been raised. Renderings of the new building were released on YouTube in May. Highlights include a 400-seat theatre, an art gallery, a dance studio, classrooms, a green

space, and an outdoor plaza.

The plaza will be 7,500 square feet and was designed with their latest fundraiser in mind—a public paver campaign. Supporters may choose to purchase a paver and have a family member or loved one’s name engraved. Pavers come in three sizes: \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Additional gifts of \$2,500 or more, made before the start of construction, earn a membership in the Founders Society. Perks of membership are still being finalized but may include advance tickets sales and preferential seating.

The facility will be built on Catawba Avenue across from the Cornelius Town Hall on a 1.85-acre property. Demolition of the existing buildings at the site will

begin September 10 and includes a historic cotton gin. Lumber from the structure will be salvaged and used to build the reception desk for the main lobby.

They also hope to repurpose one of the gin’s cotton scales—possibly into a piece of public art.

Programming at the center will be divided in three ways: performances, exhibits, and master classes by national and internationally known artists and performers; contracts with city and local performance groups—think Charlotte Ballet or Davidson Community Players; and opportunities for the community to rent out space



An artist’s rendering of Cain Center for the Arts, scheduled to open December 2022.

for events. In addition, there will be plenty of opportunities for outdoor events such as public celebrations, festivals, Arts in the Park, etc. “This is an arts and community center,” says Justin Dionne, the Cain Center’s executive director. “We are committed to the full meaning of both.” — *By Elizabeth Watson Chaney, Renderings courtesy of the Cain Center for the Arts*

 **Scoop:** Visit Cainarts.org for more information.

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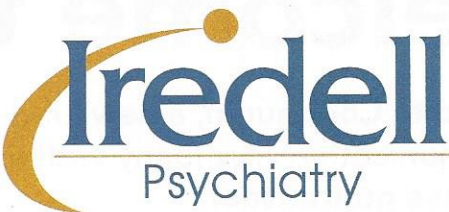

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Iredell Psychiatry is pleased to welcome Dr. Mona S. Ismail to its practice. She is board-certified in general psychiatry, as well as child and adolescent psychiatry, and has close to 20 years’ experience in her field.

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