

Foundation promises \$3.5 million for arts center

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GREENSBORO — The Phillips Foundation, created from the estate of the real estate developer Kermit G. Phillips II, will donate \$3.5 million to the proposed downtown performing arts center.

Foundation executive director Elizabeth Phillips announced the grant on Monday. It is the second and largest private financial commitment announced to date for the arts center project. Last week, Lorillard Inc. announced that it will donate \$1 million.

The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and volunteers are working to raise \$20 million in private donations toward the estimated \$60.5 million project.

The Greensboro City Council has committed \$20 million.

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Phillips developed residential and commercial property in Greensboro and throughout the Southeast. He died in 2008.