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ARTS

Anonymous donor gives \$5 million to The Umbrella

The Umbrella has announced it is the recipient of a \$5 million donation from the estate of an anonymous donor.

The donation is allocated to The Umbrella's Building The Arts Capital Campaign expenditures to renovate the main building, including the artists' studios, classrooms and common areas, along with access to the building at street level.

Executive Director Jerry Wedge said, "There are not many days that you come into work and get a call that an anonymous estate has just donated \$5,000,000 to your organization. We are all still in a bit of shock. We feel incredibly lucky that this estate had faith in The Umbrella, and in the idea that working artists, and the arts in general, are important to maintaining vibrant communities."

The donation is being made in honor of Andy Newman and Gregory Maguire, both resident artists at The Umbrella. The artists said they were surprised and humbled by the honor, saying they see the gift as a reflection of all the talented artists working at The Umbrella.

The 1929 building at 40



Posing with a cake in honor of the donation are, left to right, Jerry Wedge (Umbrella executive director), Allie Kussin (board chair), Andy Newman (resident artist), Liz Gross (board member) and Gregory Maguire (resident artist). COURTESY PHOTOS / ROB WEISMAN

Stow St. in Concord has been a hub of creativity for three decades. During this time, a community of professional and creative individuals have grown up around the notion that a place at the heart of town where you can see, learn about, and create art nourishes the health of the entire community.

The Umbrella's full expansion goals include allowing the community more opportunity to see art being made through

renovations and reconstruction to provide greater transparency, interaction and accessibility.

"Our capital campaign is still in the quiet phase and this donation now puts us at the halfway point of our goal," said Wedge. "It was the desire of the donor that this gift give The Umbrella added momentum and encourage others to join in building a premier community arts center that makes all of Concord and our surrounding communities proud."

