

Historic Duluth Armory Receives \$1 Million Anonymous Gift

by Jacob Kittilstad, FOX 21 News

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DULUTH-An anonymous donor has gifted \$1 million to the group restoring Duluth's historic armory.

The Duluth Armory Arts and Music Center (AAMC) board received word of the generous donation just Thursday, one member said.

The historic Duluth Armory currently is considered condemned by the city but, in its heyday, it hosted acts like Buddy Holly and Bob Hope.

The AAMC is working to fund the 117,000 square foot building's restoration. Vice President of the AAMC Mark Poirier says the group hopes to turn the armory into an arts and entertainment center

Those plans include a concert venue and music development center for kids, Poirier said.

With this donation, the goal seems within reach.

"Very unexpected but, boy, were we just joyous. There was just a giddy, early part of our meeting last night where everyone was just so excited," Poirier said.

"I think that it just made us feel like all the work that we've been doing over the last years is really going to happen and come to fruition," Poirier said.

The anonymous donor did leave a statement.

An excerpt reads: "This is a wonderful project that will add to the vitality of Duluth's downtown and allow millions of dollars in tax credits and other funding to come to our community that otherwise would not."

More than \$6 million in state and federal tax credits have already been committed to this project.

The AAMC says it does not have a timeline for the renovation's completion yet. But, this money should kickstart the process.