

Arts center stage to be named for Teers

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DURHAM -- The city announced Thursday that the stage at the new Durham Performing Arts Center will be named the Mildred & Dillard Teer Stage. The Teer family has donated \$1.2 million over 10 years for the name rights.

The City Council must approve the naming on March 3.

"This is a milestone for Durham as we have our first naming rights at the Durham Performing Arts Center associated with one of our best-known Durham families," Mayor Bill Bell said. "The Teers have done so much to help Durham develop as a quality city and have given back to the community through their extensive civic service over the years. The generous financial commitment and the name association truly enhance our newest destination venue in downtown Durham."

According to Robb Teer, son of Dillard and Mildred Teer and spokesman for the Teer family, the naming rights opportunity offers the Teer family a chance to honor their parents' legacy.

"We wanted to do something as a family to honor our parents, what they have meant to us and to the greater Durham area," Teer said. "We could think of no better way to reflect their constant giving to the community than to make a gift in their honor to the beautiful new performing arts center in the heart of Durham."

R. Dillard Teer and Mildred Roycroft Teer are lifelong Durham residents and have been involved in numerous civic activities. Married since 1942, they have five children. Dillard was vice president and secretary-treasurer for Nello L. Teer Co., a home-grown Durham contracting company started by his father in Durham in 1909 and sold in the 1980s. Mildred Teer was a civic leader and member of the Durham City School Board. Her father was a tobacconist in Durham and ran Roycroft's Warehouse on Rigsbee Avenue.

"This is great news for Durham and the DPAC," City Manager Patrick Baker said. "It associates a prominent Durham name with a significant part of the theater while placing the DPAC in a stronger financial position. We are honored to have the Teer family name on a beautiful new civic building."