New Performing Arts Center Nears Completion This Month

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Reporter

The Lied Center for Performing Arts is rapidly approaching completion.

Jim Willet, associate vice president of administration and director of facilities, tentatively projected that the new facility should be completed by the end of the month.

"Some of the areas may be ready by then. I wouldn't put a specific date on it. There really is not a need for the building until sometime after graduation," said Willet.

The fine arts department will not officially move into its new building until the beginning of the next semester.

The completed structure will not appear as originally designed. "In the process of designing the building, there were some modifications made in reducing the cost."

Choosing not to cover the facade of the stage tower with the same stone material that coats the rest of the building saved an excess of $100,000, said Willet.

"The architect likes raw concrete as a feature in his building," said Willet. Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates designed the new facility and many of the company's buildings feature raw concrete.

The new facility will allow all of the fine arts programs to be housed in the same building. "It's going to be a full function performing arts building," said Willet.

Included in the several features of the building is a 350 seat formal theatre, said Willet.

"The great thing about the theatre is that it will have a fly tower," Valerie Roche, A.R.A.D., A.I.S.T.D., associate professor of fine and performing arts. This fly tower will allow for greater flexibility during productions as it will no longer be necessary to halt the show to change scenes.

The floor of the dance studio features a specially sprung floor. "In fact, it's the floor from the old fine arts building."

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