

Blackbox Theatre Construction Underway at SWOSU

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It has been nearly 100 years since a theatre was built on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford, but construction is now underway on a new blackbox theatre that will be located just west of the Music Building on the Weatherford campus.

The project is part of an education capital bond issue that was signed into law on March 31, 2005, by Governor Brad Henry.

Jay L. Walker Construction Company of Oklahoma City is the building contractor, while Meyer Architecture Plus is the architect. The \$2.3 million, 10,000 square foot building is expected to be completed within one year, according to Tom Fagan, SWOSU vice president for finance.

Robin Jones, chair of the SWOSU Communication and Theatre Department, said the new building will allow greater flexibility for various theatrical productions and other events.

"We're excited about this project and the possibility of bringing more students to our program," Jones said. "We feel this will make our program more visible on the SWOSU campus."

The new theatre will allow SWOSU to renovate the existing Old Science Building Auditorium to classrooms and laboratories. The old auditorium was constructed as part of the original 1909 structure with partial renovations taking place in past years.