

Chipola College's New Center For the Arts

For a long time, Chipola College administrators, instructors and students have been dreaming of a new state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. Tuesday, the dream began to take shape.

This afternoon College Board members broke ground on the new 56,000-square-foot facility located at the foot of the college's new access road.

The \$16-million dollar center will seat approximately 650 people.

It will include a balcony, new dressing rooms, a scene shop and a costume shop.

There's also going to be a "black box" theater which can hold up to 100 people.

Performing Arts Director Joan Stadslev says, "The old theater is over 50 years old, we have band-aided and fixed it all along for many, many years but to be able to give our students a state-of-the-art facility in which to perform and recitals as well as plays and musicals is just an outstanding event."

"Chipola has such a far reaching impact on our region. When Chipola has opportunities to offer, the students in the five surrounding counties and even further, then it's exciting for everyone. So yes, this is good for Chipola, but it's even better for the students in the surrounding areas," says State Representative Marti Coley.

Construction time is expected to take 600 days. The new Performing Arts Center will replace the current 350-seat theater, built in 1958.

