ST. CLOUD, Minn., Sept. -- Construction will begin this fall on a $2.5 million fine arts building at St. Cloud State College jointly, financed by state and federal funds.

Covering two-thirds of a city block, the brick and concrete structure will include two theatres, a recital hall and facilities for educational radio and closed-circuit television production and transmission. Housing the departments of music and speech and dramatic art, the new building is scheduled for completion by January of 1968.

Apparent low bidders for the construction project are Gunnar I. Johnson Company of Minneapolis, general contractor, $1,360,000; Granite City Electric Company of St. Cloud, electrical work, $275,904; Sporleders Heating and Plumbing of St. Cloud, mechanical work, $211,450, and Weidner's Plumbing and Heating of St. Cloud, ventilation and temperature control, $187,700. Architects are Haarstick, Lundgren and Associates and Walter Butler Engineering Company, both of St. Paul.

To be located west of Atwood Memorial College Center, the building features a 500-seat main theatre with a turntable stage permitting scenery to be changed on one side while a performance is in progress on the other. Also included are a box office, concessions area, check room, orchestra pit, scene shop, dressing rooms, wardrobe room, makeup room, a modern light and sound control system and a studio theatre with 200 portable seats.

A debate room and recording-listening room are provided in addition to a choral rehearsal room and band rehearsal room, both with access to a 200-seat recital-lecture hall. There also will be a large piano classroom, 20 piano practice rooms and several faculty offices. Adjoining the radio-television studio will be a control and equipment room and a radio room.

The state provided approximately two-thirds of the funds for the project. The remaining one-third came from the federal government.

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