

Plan Library Of Performing Arts Here

The board of directors of the Illinois Foundation for the Dance has approved a \$1 million performing arts research library to be built soon in Champaign-Urbana.

According to Gilbert G. Wright, 910 W. Park, U. of I. professor of English and president of the foundation, the board approved Phase I of a three-phase educational and cultural enrichment program in the arts for Illinois and neighboring states.

Phase I provides for a \$5 million capital investment, \$4 million to construct a preparatory high school in the dramatic and visual arts, and \$1 million for the performing arts research library.

Wright said no site for the library has been announced yet. The library will house a large reference collection including books, periodicals, films, archives, correspondence, design sketches and other production records.

The high school is expected to be built in the Chicago area.

Initial Collection

The U. of I. Library reportedly is cooperating with the foundation to obtain a dance resource collection currently on the market. The collection would serve as a nucleus for further acquisitions.

Robert B. Downs, dean of library administration, was out of town Wednesday and other top library officials said they were not aware of any project between the university library and the foundation. "But that doesn't mean there isn't any thing in the wind about it," one spokesman said.

Phase II of the foundation's program will be an extension of the high school, and Phase III will establish a professional resident company of performers in Chicago.

The foundation, established last year, is a tax exempt, non-profit corporation to provide financial support for developing performing arts resources in the Midwest. Headquarters are in 533 Robeson Building, Champaign, and other offices are in Chicago, New York and San Francisco.

Besides Wright, local members of the foundation are Lloyd E. Berry, Lloyd S. Engert, Maxine C. Engert and Kathleen T. Wright.

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