

KU chooses director for new Lied Center

By Mike Brassfield

Kansas staff writer

Jacqueline Davis, director of KU's performing arts series, will serve as director of the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, KU officials said Friday.

Davis said she would be responsible for the general management of the new \$14.3 million arts center as well as its performance programs, which include the Concert and Chamber Music Series and the New Directions Series.



Davis

The center, which will be built on West Campus, is scheduled to open in early 1993, she said.

It will be a multipurpose building for music, theater, and dance events, lectures, films and convocations. The building will house a 2,000-seat concert hall, a box office and administrative offices.

"Jackie is the only one for the job," said Peter Thompson, dean of fine arts. "She has been a key person in the planning and development of the center."

Thompson said the Concert and Chamber Music Series had grown in scope and quality under Davis' direction.

"Her vision and dedication to presenting contemporary works also led to the New Directions Series, which has brought an exciting new range of artistic work to the community," he said.

Thompson said Davis was considered among the best in her field.

"Our performing arts programming is nationally recognized for its innovative and thoughtful excellence," he said. "Her knowledge of

the arts and her awareness of our community will be invaluable as we look to the future in this wonderful facility."

Davis said planning was underway for the inaugural season of the center.

"I am very excited about this," she said. "It's a new challenge."

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me and for the region. The Lied Center will allow us to expand our programming, to commission new works and to sponsor residencies so artists can spend a longer time in the community. My goal is for the center to become the cornerstone of the performing arts in Kansas and the Midwest."

Ken Walker, one of Davis' graduate student assistants, said Davis had been director of KU's performing arts series since 1979.

Davis is responsible for booking artists, fundraising, grant-writing, caretaking of artists and supervising the technical and administrative staff of the series, Walker said. She also has taught a graduate-level course in arts administration at KU.

Davis was elected in December 1989 to a two-year term as president of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, a national organization with more than 1,600 members, he said.

During the summer of 1987, Davis was a fellow in the Inter-Arts program at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. She frequently serves as a panelist and site consultant for the NEA, Walker said.

The center was made possible by a \$10 million gift from the Lied Foundation of Omaha, Neb., said Jim Modig, campus director of facilities planning. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the building were July 12 and construction is scheduled to begin this fall.