



TACOMA  
SCHOOL  
of the ARTS

Partners

## *Bella Notte!* – Premiere Dinner & Auction

Hosted by

**Tacoma School of the Arts Partners**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

Dear Friends and Supporters of our School Community:

As a volunteer with Tacoma School of the Arts Partners, I want to take this opportunity to inform you of our organization's first annual major fundraising event, and encourage you to participate by donating goods or services for our *Bella Notte!* Auction.

The Tacoma School of the Arts (TSOTA) opened its doors in the downtown core of Tacoma in the fall of 2001. It has quickly become a central and successful element of our community, and in fact, a beacon of educational innovation known nationwide. Now in its fourth year, SOTA enrolls 360 high school students, 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, who apply to this public school for its emphasis on the visual and performing arts, integrated with a strong college-preparatory and internship program. The teachers and staff have made a commitment to develop relationships with students and community partners and provide a challenging, relevant arts-focused curriculum.

The TSOTA Partners is a nonprofit group comprised of enthusiastic parents and community members. One of our group's principal functions is sponsorship of TSOTA's ongoing Adjunct Artist program, which brings professional artists into the school to share their skills and talents with students. Here are some quotes from members of 2004's first graduating class on how this program and TSOTA's interdisciplinary approach have enriched students' lives:

*"SOTA has given me such insight into the life of a professional artist...Yes, attending such a young school has meant giving up things...but it has been worth it to work alongside such talented students and passionate teachers."*

*"We did more than attend school; we built a community where art is as valued as academics and people are respected for their originality."*

*"Our school has often been cited as a force in Tacoma's renaissance...an explosion of creative energy led to the blossoming of art in the area...as a TSOTA student, I've had the opportunity to take an active role in the rebirth."*

TSOTA is part of the Tacoma School District and does receive per-student funding like other public high schools. However, exemplary offerings such as the Adjunct Artists program are financially supported by the Partners and donations from friends of the school. TSOTA has built a strong, positive relationship with the community, along with a very successful scholastic reputation. We need your help to keep TSOTA shining as a bright light in the Tacoma/Pierce County community.

We welcome any donation of goods and/or services to benefit *Bella Notte!* Tacoma School of the Arts Partners is a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. If you have any questions regarding the auction, please contact Leslie McQuistin, Auction Chair, at (253) 927-7778 or email her at [leslie.mcquistin@comcast.net](mailto:leslie.mcquistin@comcast.net).

Sincerely,

TSOTA Partners Auction Volunteer  
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