

Greetings! The 2007-08 school year has officially come to an end, and it was a wonderful year for Exploring the Arts. ETA began 2008 under the leadership of its new Executive Director, **Cheri Walsh**. Having first started out her career as a dancer, and now with more than 10 years of nonprofit management under her belt, Cheri has proven a perfect fit for ETA. We are thrilled to have her!



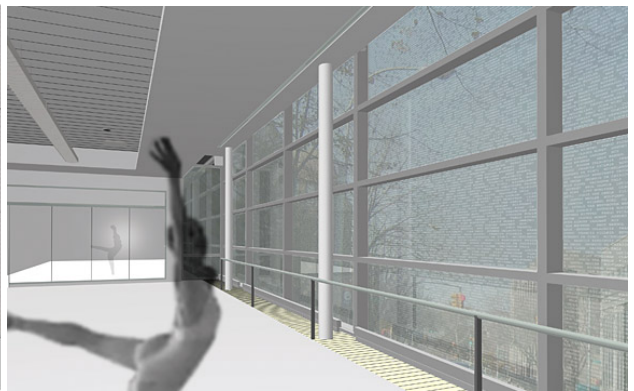
We are excited to report that construction on the new building for the ETA-supported Frank Sinatra School of the Arts has made magnificent progress and is running on schedule. The building will open for use as the school's new home at the start of 2009.

Left: design image of the new building courtesy of the Polshek Partnership Architects

ETA's staff and Board had the pleasure of touring the construction site this past May and all were impressed with the stunning facilities.

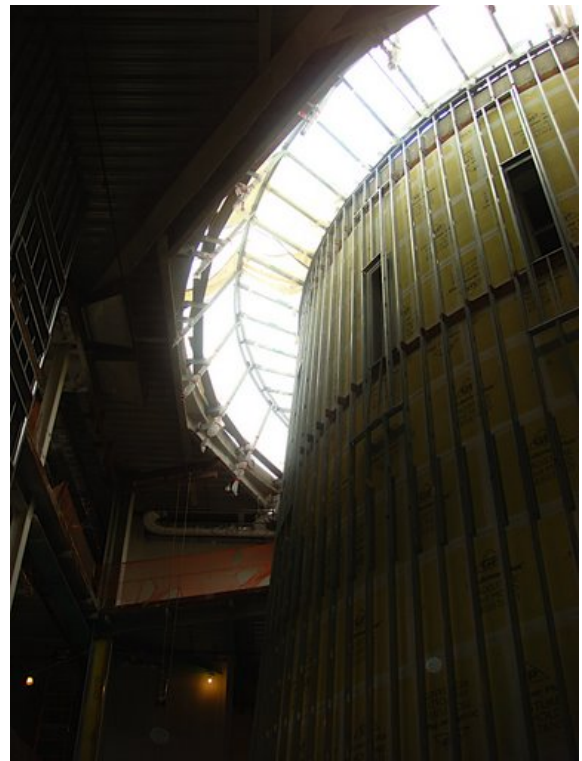
Right: Susan & Tony Bennett visit the construction site with leading architect, Susan Rodriguez, Frank Sinatra School principal, Donna Finn, ETA staff and members of the School Construction Authority.





Pictured Above: Design images of the new school's entranceway and one of two dance studios

Pictured Below: Design image of the new school's Tony Bennett Concert Hall



Above Right: The Tony Bennett Concert Hall under construction



Left: Tony tours the construction site with Queens' own Peter Vallone, Sr. and Peter Vallone, Jr.

ETA successfully expanded its Tony Bennett Apprenticeship Program this year to serve a second public arts high school. Students from **Talent Unlimited** in Manhattan newly joined the program this term and all did a fantastic job. *Internship highlights from the semester include:* mapping choreography on paper at rehearsals of the Martha Graham Dance Company; selecting new repertoire, arranging music and performing with Sweet Plantain String Quartet; participating in the reading of new plays at Epic Theatre Ensemble; preparing an educational program guide and hands-on activities for the New York Philharmonic's "Young People's Concert;" assisting Development efforts at The Noguchi Museum; singing live in concert at Carnegie Hall with The Collegiate Chorale; and last but not least: learning how to use Microsoft Excel in the administrative offices of American Ballet Theatre!

SAVE THE DATE!

Exploring the Arts 2008 Benefit Gala

Dinner, Live Auction, & Entertainment

Tuesday, September 23rd at Cipriani Wall Street, NYC

Host: Whoopi Goldberg

With performances by:

Tony Bennett

Jerry Seinfeld

John Mayer

& other special guests

Honoring:

Reed Hastings (Chairman, President & CEO of Netflix, Inc.)

Sumner Redstone (Chairman of Viacom, Inc. and CBS Corp.)

Steve Wynn (Chairman & CEO of Wynn Resorts)

CONTACT INEZ WEINSTEIN SPECIAL EVENTS: 212-254-6677

Below: vocal students Melissa Goscinski and Ben Herman performing at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



Left: music student, Abe Vasquez, at the Sinatra School



ETA supported a new interdisciplinary program this year that brought teaching artists from the Martha Graham Center into English classes at the Frank Sinatra School. It culminated in the students' performance of a Martha Graham technique-inspired piece they had choreographed to a 5-paragraph excerpt from the book they were studying, *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt.

ETA thanks **Nancy Giles** of CBS News for serving as this year's Keynote Speaker at the Frank Sinatra School graduation. We are proud to report that 99% of the senior class graduated with 95% continuing on to college, some to such prestigious institutions as The Juilliard School, Columbia University, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Spellman College. **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2008!**