

# Collab

a showcase of visual arts, creative writing, and performance

**Collab:** Keep Arts Education Thriving.

**Saturday, August 22, 2009**

**6 - 9 PM**

**School of the Arts**

**45 Prince Street**

**Rochester, NY 14607**

**Collab822 @ yahoo.com**

**a benefit for:**

**Friends of SOTA Pocket Change Fund**

**Donations Encouraged at Door!**



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OUR MISSION IS STUDENT SUCCESS...ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC, AND HUMANISTIC

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 28, 2009

Contact: Adele Fico, Art Center Director  
585-242-7682 ext. 1551

Re: COLLAB at SOTA

## **SOTA ALUMNI JOIN FORCES FOR THE ARTS**

**Rochester, NY** – Several graduates from the School of the Arts will present a showcase of visual arts, dance, music, creative writing, and performance to raise funds and awareness for arts education. The event, entitled **COLLAB**, will be held on August 22, 2009 at School of the Arts, 45 Prince Street from 6:00-9:00 PM. The showcase is free of charge and open to the public. However, donations are encouraged and will be accepted throughout the evening. All proceeds will benefit Friends of School of the Arts Pocket Change Fund, a community-based, not-for-profit organization which raises funds to support the academic, artistic and humanistic needs of SOTA students.

**COLLAB** features large art installations created by Katrina Stokes, a 2007 graduate of Allendale Colombia School and current student at The Rhode Island School of Design. These various environments of visual imagery are derived from literature and serve as the centerpiece of the show. Ms. Stokes inspiration comes from the works of Langston Hughes, Harriet Wilson, Bessie Head and Charlotte Perkins Gilman. She combines her installations with live performances which in turn stimulates all of the viewers' senses.

**COLLAB** is the brainchild of Emily Rus and Natalie Sarubbi, SOTA Class of 2007. The idea for the event comes as a direct result of the recent teacher lay-offs and cuts to the Rochester City School District school budget. Ms. Rus and Ms. Sarubbi have engaged the talents of their peers to create a multi-dimensional event celebrating the power of the arts and the importance of arts education.

“As a SOTA graduate, my arts education gave me the freedom of expression to live life with an open mind. I learned to embrace diversity and to deny intolerance. This is the driving force behind our efforts with **COLLAB**,” said Ms. Rus.

In addition to the performance and art exhibition, students and community members have donated original works of art which will be sold that evening celebrating **COLLAB**. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of School of the Arts. For more information, contact Adele Fico, Art Center Director at 585-242-7682 x1551.

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