

*We choose Albany public schools because ...*

**There's a little birdhouse in our soul**

The annual Birdhouse Auction sponsored by Albany Charity for Arts in Education Inc., raised \$6,000 this year to benefit art and music enrichment activities in the city's public schools.



About 140 people attended the Sept. 27 at Ballinger's in downtown Albany, bidding on decorated birdhouses and other works of art. The birdhouses were constructed during the 2006-07 school year by students at the district's Abrookin Vocational Technical Center and decorated by local artists.

District teachers now can apply for grants to fund programs during the current school year.

“This great program provides teachers the opportunity to think outside the box and to be creative as they plan after-school enrichment projects for students,” said Gloria Savino, the district's supervisor for art, music and foreign language. “These enrichment projects expand students' artistic abilities and promote a deeper appreciation the world of art.”



Albany Charity for Arts in Education is a non-profit organization that assists the district with funding for art and music programs outside the scope of the regular school day. In past years, the auction has supported a Shakespearian play at Myers Middle School, a musical production at

TOAST, “The Midsummer Project's Technical Theatre and Film Workshop” at Livingston Magnet Academy and an after-school jazz workshop for students.

This year's event featured a performance by TOAST students LaNiya Sibert (*pictured above at right*) and Bess Zafran (*pictured above at left*), who performed a song from “Once Upon a Mattress,” a past birdhouse-supported project.