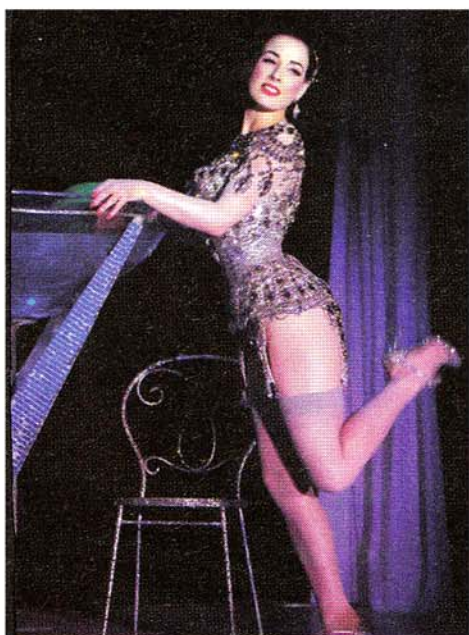


They keep the dirt flying and the seats filled. They collect, cajole and create. Meet the city's most influential culture commandos

| Written by Steve Carter, Mark Stuertz, Janie Condon, Laura Noble and Rachel Watkins | Photography by Justin Clemons, Matt Hawthorne and Ben Garrett |

A generation of waiting, 10 months until showtime: Next fall, the opening of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts marks the debut of a transformational Arts District first envisioned more than 25 years ago. And that's only the gilded tip of the cultural revolution remaking the city. From homes, galleries, museums, schools, performance halls and construction sites, the arts renaissance is here. Curtains up, Dallas!



POWER PARTIES!
Dita Von Teese at TWO
x TWO For AIDS and Art



THE DECADE TWO x TWO For AIDS and Art blends philanthropy, art and serious fun for a marathon of fundraising. This year marked the 10th anniversary for the event, which benefits both the Foundation for AIDS Research and the Dallas Museum of Art. Each year, Cindy and Howard Rachofsky lend their magnificent Richard Meier-designed Preston Hollow art compound, drawing acts such as Dita Von Teese and Taylor Dayne.