



**arts**council  
silicon valley

#### **A Note from Bruce...**

As I reported in the May issue of the Partner e-Update, the Arts Council is preparing for the start of our new fiscal year in July and focused on ensuring that our funding models and programs remain strong for our grantees. It's imperative that we are able to maintain our operational business structure and health through these shaky economic times. Previously, I alluded to "storm clouds" on the funding horizon – and some still do remain. However, the last few weeks have brought several new developments and accomplishments that I would like to acknowledge and celebrate including:

- ***The defeat of State Ballot Measure Proposition 1D.*** If this ballot measure had passed it would have hit us and many nonprofit organizations in Santa Clara County that offer preschool children's programs. Special thanks to Jolene Smith, Executive Director, and her staff at First 5 Santa Clara County, for providing leadership to those of us who volunteered on behalf of the No on Proposition 1D campaign efforts, as well as Kathleen King, Executive Director of the Santa Clara Family Health Foundation, for her hard work in galvanizing local support and driving other advocacy efforts to defeat this measure. And, thanks to all of you who voted NO on Proposition 1D!
- ***The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded an "Access to Artistic Excellence Grant" for \$30,000 to the Arts Council.*** This grant will help fund small to mid-size arts organizations as part of the Arts Council's Community Arts Fund (CAF) grants program. We're still waiting to hear final word on the status of our \$250,000 application to the NEA for stimulus funds, which if awarded, will be open to local arts groups for application in July 2009. Be sure to attend our informational meeting on June 23, 2009, to discuss our potential new grants program, ***Arts Jobs Stimulus Program***, as well as receive valuable, concrete direction on how to apply for the California Arts Council (CAC) and Western State Arts Federation (WESTAF) funding. More information regarding this meeting is available on our website at [www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org).

- ***Positive momentum in our budget talks with our “official” local arts partner, the County of Santa Clara.*** For the last two month there has been an effort to redirect County money slated for the Arts Council out of the Transient-Occupancy-Taxes (TOT) in the General Fund to fund two administrative staff positions in the County government offices. Not only would this jeopardize next year’s Arts Council funding by 61%, it would create a fundamental shift in County policy towards the arts and have considerable impact on our long-time, historical partnership with the County. With the help of our Board of Trustees, Liz Kniss, President of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, County Supervisors Ken Yeager, Dave Cortese, George Shirakawa (and their staffs), County Assessor and former Arts Council Board President Larry Stone, and many key community supporters and arts organizations, we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to defeat this effort in the final budget hearing scheduled for June 16, 2009. Many thanks again to those who spoke on our behalf at the Board of Supervisor’s Budget Workshop meeting on May 13 and for the many letters of support which were sent to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors as well.

Although these are positive developments, we are still hearing news of numerous salary reductions, staff and program cuts, in arts organizations throughout our County. The recent restructuring at the Office of Cultural Affairs in the City of San Jose is but one example of how draconian cuts to arts funding and staff positions will have potentially long-term and negative impacts to not only the arts in San Jose but the economic health of Silicon Valley overall. As with the County, the elected leaders in San Jose need to realize the value of maintaining funding for the arts, particularly during these challenging economic times. The arts are part of the downtown economic engine that San Jose depends on to attract tourists and maintains a rich and diverse quality of life.

Thank you for your continued support of the arts!

Bruce W. Davis  
Executive Director  
Arts Council Silicon Valley