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Arts Council Silicon Valley to Honor Extraordinary Local Arts and Business Leaders at 2010 Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards (ABBYs) Luncheon

SAVE-THE-DATE!

The ABBY Awards | Friday, May 7, 2010 | 11:30am – 1:30pm | Fairmont Hotel, San Jose

San Jose, CA, March 25, 2010 – Arts Council Silicon Valley announced today that it will pay tribute to local arts and business leaders for their significant contributions to the Santa Clara County arts community at its upcoming 2010 Silicon Valley Arts & Business Awards (ABBYs) luncheon on Friday, May 7, 2010, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. This year's theme, "Extraordinary Times Call for Extraordinary People," will celebrate and recognize the hard work and ongoing commitment of these local leaders who work tirelessly to keep arts and culture strong in our region in both good and challenging times. For event, ticket, and sponsorship information visit: www.artscouncil.org or contact Lissa Jones at (408) 998-2787, ext. 202.

The event is expected to draw nearly 600 members of the community, including corporate leaders, board members and staff of the region's arts organizations, local arts funders from Silicon Valley's premier corporations and foundations, and civic and political leaders. This year's program will honor Larry Stone, County Assessor, former President and co-founder of Arts Council Silicon Valley, with the *Lifetime Achievement Award*, for his dedication and leadership in advancing the arts in Santa Clara County. In recognition of their ongoing commitment as corporate ambassadors for local arts and culture, the *Spirit of the Arts Award* will be presented to Michelle Mann, who serves as Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Adobe, as well as Executive Director, Adobe Foundation, and Siobhan Kenney, Senior Manager, Global Community Affairs, Applied Materials.

Underscoring this year's event theme, the Arts Council is also paying special tribute to extraordinary arts leaders from 64 arts organizations and institutions throughout Santa Clara County who have been nominated for the *Arts Leadership Award* by their peers and colleagues. The *Arts Leadership Award* honors individuals who have worked tirelessly to produce work that continues to engage and inspire while dealing with sustainability and economic difficulties. To view the list of nominees visit: www.artscouncil.org.

"The ABBYs celebrates and recognizes the passion and dedication necessary to support arts and culture in our community at every level," said Bruce W. Davis, executive director of Arts Council Silicon Valley. "This year's event will be particularly special as it will showcase and celebrate the extraordinary leadership, talents, and efforts of those individuals who year after year keep the arts alive and strong in our region."

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ABOUT THE 2010 ABBYs

The Silicon Valley Arts & Business Awards (ABBYs), produced by Arts Council Silicon Valley (ACSV), celebrates and honors individuals and businesses that support the creative and cultural activities in our region. Since 1989, this biennial luncheon has been the singular philanthropic event that brings the entire community together to celebrate the arts in Santa Clara County and recognize those who support them. This year's theme, *"Extraordinary Times Call for Extraordinary People,"* underscores the tremendous challenges arts groups have faced during these tough times. Proceeds from the ABBYs benefit Arts Council Silicon Valley, which annually supports more than 600 local arts and cultural organizations through our grants and services

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ABOUT ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY

Arts Council Silicon Valley is an independent, nonprofit arts agency dedicated to providing funding, advocacy support, and marketing services to the region's arts organizations and artists. As the official state/local partner with the California Arts Council, the County of Santa Clara, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Council Silicon Valley is the largest nonprofit arts council in the state. Since the organization's inception in 1982, the Arts Council has provided nearly \$25 million in grants and services to local arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, schools, and community groups. For more information on Arts Council Silicon Valley go to: www.artscouncil.org