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Arts Council Silicon Valley Awarded \$100,000 Grant by The Adobe Foundation – Grant to Help Fund Deserving Arts Organizations and Artists in Santa Clara County –

San Jose, CA, August 27, 2009 – In support of its mission to provide meaningful funding for small and mid-size arts organizations as well as accomplished individual artists in Santa Clara County, Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced it has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by The Adobe Foundation. The grant will be disbursed through the Arts Council’s Community Arts Fund (CAF), Regional Arts Fund (RAF), and Artist Fellowship grant programs, as well as to Artsopolis, (a program of Arts Council Silicon Valley). The Arts Council funds grantees through these key programs annually, supporting specific projects as well as general operating expenses and marketing efforts. The Arts Council is also the only arts funding agency south of San Francisco that awards unrestricted fellowships to individual artists.

“Supporting the Arts Council in its efforts to promote and fund local arts groups and artists is an example of our philanthropic focus in action - supporting strategic programs and partnerships that help make our communities vibrant places in which to live, work and do business, “ explained Michelle Mann, executive director of the Adobe Foundation. “Supporting the creative process is part of what Adobe does every day. Working with the Arts Council, we hope to continue nurturing creativity and an active arts community in Silicon Valley.”

“We are grateful for this grant as it comes at a time when State and local funding for the overall arts community have been hard hit by the current economy, “said Bruce W. Davis, Executive Director of Arts Council Silicon Valley. “For the past three years, Adobe has been a strong partner of the Arts Council through its support of the ArtsEnhance program and marketing conference as well as generous in-kind donations. Adobe’s ongoing support of the arts through this funding is imperative to expanding the community impact that the arts bring to all of us.”

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ARTS FUND (CAF)

Community Arts Fund (CAF) provides project support for arts activities reflective of our multicultural region, with an emphasis on encouraging small, community-based, volunteer-driven organizations. Through the **Community Arts Fund**, the Arts Council seeks to:

- Reflect the dynamic, diverse, and innovative character of Santa Clara County.
- Stimulate local support, particularly at the grassroots level.
- Recognize and encourage non-professional, volunteer involvement as an essential part of Santa Clara County's cultural environment.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL ARTS FUND (RAF)

Regional Arts Fund (RAF) provides general operating support to encourage professional and semi-professional arts groups throughout the Silicon Valley region. Through the **Regional Arts Fund**, the Arts Council seeks to:

- Support the professional development of mid-sized arts organizations.
- Promote artistic and organizational excellence.
- Award organizations that exemplify the vitality of Silicon Valley's richly diverse region through their artistic programming and outreach.

ABOUT THE ARTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Arts Council Silicon Valley annually awards **Artist Fellowships** to recognize professional working artists and support them in their creative work. Fellowships of up to \$4,000 are awarded annually in different artistic categories to regional artists who are seriously committed to their art form and have a demonstrated history of professional activity in Santa Clara County. No specific project needs to be carried out with the funds awarded. This grant program defines "working artists" as adults who have received training in an artistic discipline or tradition, spend at least ten hours a week on their artwork, self-define as professional artists, and derive income from work in which they use their expert artistic practices and skills.

ABOUT ARTSOPOLIS

Artsopolis exists to give visibility to Silicon Valley arts and cultural organizations in order to expand audiences and create a more vibrant and engaged civic and cultural community. Artsopolis strives to enhance and strengthen the marketing capabilities of these regional organizations with collaborative marketing efforts and by leveraging resources through partnerships with other agencies, funders, and businesses. Established in July 2002, Artsopolis is a nonprofit program of Arts Council Silicon Valley.

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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 \$24 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