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MEDIA CONTACT: Anna Weldon, Director of Communications
(408) 998-2787, x217 | aweldon@artscouncil.org | www.artscouncil.org

Arts Council Silicon Valley Awards 2011 Fellowships to Five Exceptional Artists Artist Fellowship Program Marks 20th Anniversary of Honoring Individual Contributions to the Arts in Santa Clara County

San Jose, CA, April 6, 2011 – Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced the five recipients of Artist Fellowship Grants for their ground-breaking contributions to the arts in Santa Clara County. This year’s recipients are: Shannon Amidon, San Jose, (Photography); Terry Berlier, La Honda, (Sculpture); David Perez, Campbell, (Spoken Word); PJ Hirabayashi, San Jose, (Music Performance); and, Karen Gabay, San Jose, (Choreography).

Now celebrating its 20th anniversary of recognizing local professional artists, the Arts Council annually awards Artist Fellowships to exceptional artists to enable them to continue to pursue their creative work. Fellowships of \$4,000 each are awarded in up to six artistic categories. Artists were selected by experienced judges based upon the artistic quality and originality of work, community impact during the past three years within Santa Clara County, and professional development by demonstrating continued exploration of their art form. Arts Council Silicon Valley is the only funding agency south of San Francisco that awards artists unrestricted grants for career accomplishments.

“As the Artist Fellowship Program observes its 20th anniversary, we are proud to once again recognize outstanding artists who consistently strive to push the boundaries of artistic excellence in their creative pursuits,” said Nancy Glaze, Interim Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. “This year’s 2011 Artist Fellowship grantees exemplify the highest standards of this program and we are honored to help support their creative journeys.”

ABOUT THE 2011 ARTIST FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Visual Arts 2D: Photography-Video-Animation

Shannon Amidon, Resident of San Jose

Shannon Amidon was born and raised in San Jose, CA. Her artwork is described as photo-based mixed media and alternative process photography. Her work has been exhibited nationwide with emphasis on the West Coast. A founding member of KALEID Gallery in San Jose, Shannon is a member of many arts organizations in the Bay Area and is active in the arts community. She is also involved in education outreach for children and young artist mentoring. She recently completed a residency at the Julia and David White Artist Colony in Costa Rica.

Visual Arts 3D: Sculpture**Terry Berlier**, Resident of La Honda

Terry Berlier is an interdisciplinary artist who works primarily with sculpture, installation, and video. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group shows both nationally and internationally including in Barcelona, Venice, Girona, Mainz, Tel Aviv, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento. She recently received the Kala Art Institute fellowship and residency for 2009-10 in Berkeley, CA. She has taught at UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and California College of the Arts. She currently teaches in the Department of Art and Art History at Stanford.

Literary Arts: Memoir-Spoken Word**David Perez**, Resident of Campbell

David Perez travels throughout the United States and beyond performing his written work. As a spoken word artist, he has performed by invitation in hundreds of venues throughout the United States and Canada. A dedicated teacher, Perez has led poetry outreach programs for youth communities throughout the Silicon Valley, and has coached two poetry slam teams competing in the Brave New Voices Festival. Having earned an MFA in creative writing, he has also given workshops at Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, and UC Santa Cruz.

Performing Arts/Music: Vocal or Instrumental Performance**PJ Hirabayashi**, Resident of San Jose

PJ Hirabayashi, a Bay Area native, is a founding member of San Jose Taiko and directs the performing company's artistic programming, workshops, master classes, and audition process. As a solo artist, she has performed with Hiroshima, David Benoit, San Jose Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Ondekoza, Margaret Wingrove Dance Company, and Theatre Yugen. She is a recipient of the Pacific Asian Women's Warrior Award in the Arts and the Santa Clara County's Women's Fund Award in the Arts.

Performing Arts/Dance: Choreography**Karen Gabay**, Resident of San Jose

Karen Gabay is principal dancer with Ballet San Jose, with a diverse repertoire that includes many ballets that have been choreographed for her. She has performed nationally and internationally as a guest artist. As a choreographer, she has produced ballets for numerous companies including Ballet San Jose, the International Ballet Competition Reunion Gala, Pointe of Departure, Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet, Ohio Ballet, Dancing Wheels, Cleveland San Jose Ballet, Chautauqua Dance Company, Minnesota Ballet, and the Cleveland Composer's Guild.

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ABOUT ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY

Arts Council Silicon Valley is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering arts and culture throughout the region. We bring leadership and support to the artists and arts organizations that form the cultural framework of our community. To do this we provide grants and capacity-building services and align with key partners who share our strategic vision. Since our inception in 1982, we have distributed more than \$25 million in funding to the arts. Arts Council Silicon Valley is an official partner with the California Arts Council and the County of Santa Clara. For more information on Arts Council Silicon Valley go to:

www.artscouncil.org