



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Arts Council Silicon Valley Presents 2010 ArtsConnect Program Exhibition "Unlock the Promise" Exhibition to Showcase Artistic Work of Local At-Risk Youth**

**At the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California  
Exhibition: May 7 – June 4, 2010**

**San Jose, CA, April 13, 2010** – The artistic talents of local at-risk youth ages 13 through 18 will be showcased in a dynamic exhibition "*Unlock the Promise*" at Santa Clara University's de Saisset Museum from May 7 – June 4, 2010. The "*Unlock the Promise*" exhibition showcases artwork created by youth participating in the ArtsConnect program, a collaboration between Arts Council Silicon Valley and the Alternative Schools Department of the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the ArtsConnect program, shares the talents of Bay Area-based visual and performing artists with at-risk youth through short and long-term artist residencies and arts in education programs. For general information on the de Saisset Museum and exhibition hours go to [www.scu.edu/deSaisset/](http://www.scu.edu/deSaisset/) or call 408.554.4528.

Students participating in this year's ArtsConnect program attend the following alternative schools in Santa Clara County: Blue Ridge High School, Redemption Academy Community School, Novo Community School, Muriel Wright School, Osborne School, Pathfinder Academy Community School, Santa Clara Community School, Odyssey Community School, Stonegate Park Community School, and View Side Academy Community School.

This year's professional teaching artists include: Wilfred Mark, music; Gertrud Turner, visual arts; Craig Ward, music; Mark Engel, visual arts; Olga Loya, visual arts, storytelling; Lori Kay, visual arts; Susan Taylor Brown, literature/poetry; Judy Gittelsohn, visual arts; Frances Marin, visual arts; Chike Nwoffiah, media; and, Joan Ruiz, visual arts.

"Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the ArtsConnect program provides an important outlet for meaningful artistic expression that enriches the lives of countless at-risk youth in our region," said Mitsu Kumagai, the Arts Council's youth program manager and former Assistant County Superintendent of Schools for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. "This program truly harnesses the power of the arts and it's inspiring to witness the intellectual, social and emotional growth these youth experience as a result."

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## **ABOUT THE ARTSCONNECT PROGRAM**

Created in 1989, the *ArtsConnect* arts education program is one of Arts Council Silicon Valley's most popular and influential programs. The program provides year-round arts instruction through comprehensive artist residencies for at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 18. Now the largest provider of arts education for at-risk youth in the region, on average the program reaches more than 600 individuals each year, nearly 16,000 throughout its history.

*ArtsConnect* engages at-risk youth and special needs populations through a number of different types of arts disciplines. Included are music, drama, visual arts (painting, drawing, writing, mosaic, and sculpture), and dance. Each discipline has its own significant and unique affect on those who participate and are all important for students in California public schools because it promotes learning, creativity, skills, and knowledge in the visual and performing arts.

The program continues to successfully help teens and challenged adults access their creativity and transform it into a positive outlet for healing and expression, reduce truancy and improve academic performance, divert youth from gangs, drugs and the juvenile justice system, employ individual artists, and open the doors for potential future employment in the arts (In California, 1 in 5 students works in the creative industry). For more information regarding the *ArtsConnect* program, visit: [www.artscouncil.org/grants/programs/artscconnect.asp](http://www.artscouncil.org/grants/programs/artscconnect.asp)

## **ARTSCONNECT SUPPORT**

This year's ArtsConnect program is funded in part by Morgan Family Foundation, QUALCOMM, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Santa Clara County Office of Education, Heritage Bank of Commerce, and the deSaisset Museum.

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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](http://www.artscouncil.org)