



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Arts Council Silicon Valley Announces 2009-2010 Arts Education Season**

## ***ArtsConnect and Arts Enrichment Grant Programs Provide New Arts Education Opportunities in Santa Clara County***

**San Jose, CA, October 14, 2009** – Underscoring its long-time collaboration and partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and First 5 Santa Clara County, Arts Council Silicon Valley is pleased to announce the launch of its 2009-2010 arts education programming season. This programming supports both preschoolers and at-risk youth in Santa Clara County via two community acclaimed programs, ArtsConnect and the Arts Enrichment Grant (AEG) program.

Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the Arts Council's 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 in the classrooms of Santa Clara County alternative schools. Working with the Alternative Schools Department of the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the Arts Council is the largest provider of arts education for at-risk youth in the region and was recently recognized by the California Department of Education as a "Best Practices" Program for the state. Since its inception, the program serves on average more than 1,300 individuals each year, nearly 15,000 throughout its history. This year's teaching artists will provide instruction to youth in the areas of filmmaking/media, creative writing, visual arts, music and storytelling. This year's ArtsConnect program is funded in part by County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Heritage Bank of Commerce, Morgan Family Foundation, and QUALCOMM. For a complete listing of schools and teaching artists participating in this year's program, visit: [www.artscouncil.org/grants/programs/artsconnect.asp](http://www.artscouncil.org/grants/programs/artsconnect.asp).

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Through the Arts Enrichment Grants (AEG) program, the Arts Council has partnered with First 5 Santa Clara County to promote cultural enrichment for children ages 0-5 and their families to provide them broader access to the arts and arts education through significant investments in a full range of arts experiences. This includes placing artists into Power of Preschool (PoP) classrooms to teach young children through the arts and to build the skills of early educators to also use the arts as a teaching strategy. Administered by E3 Institute, WestEd: Advancing Excellence in Early Education, PoP is a high quality, free, voluntary, part-day preschool program for 4-5 year-old children. Since the inception of this program in 2005, more than 2,000 children have experienced learning through dance and movements, drama, music, and visual arts. For the 2009-2010 arts programming season, teaching artists will be placed in 40 preschool sites throughout the County. For more information regarding the AEG program visit: [www.artscouncil.org/grants/grants/forindividual/aeg.asp](http://www.artscouncil.org/grants/grants/forindividual/aeg.asp).

“Our positive partnerships with both the Santa Clara County Office of Education and First 5 Santa Clara County have allowed us to drive key educational programs that leverage the power of the arts to positively impact the lives of young children and at-risk teens in our region,” said Bruce W. Davis, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. “Through these programs we have witnessed firsthand how creative expression through the arts transforms lives by increasing personal confidence and academic performance in students of all ages and backgrounds.”

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