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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Anna Weldon, Director of Communications

(408) 998-2787, ext. 217 / [aweldon@artscouncil.org](mailto:aweldon@artscouncil.org) / [www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org)

**ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR 78 ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**San Jose, CA, June 17, 2009** – Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced that it has awarded \$256,646 in grants to 78 arts and cultural organizations focused on theatre, dance, music, and visual and literary art forms throughout Santa Clara County.

Through its Community Arts Fund (CAF) program, the Arts Council awarded 46 community-based, volunteer-driven, small-budget arts groups project support grants of up to \$4,000 for arts activities reflective of our multicultural region. Organizations receiving grants awards this year include the Afsaneh Arts and Culture Society (San Jose), the Community School of Music and Arts (Mountain View), South Valley Civic Theater (Gilroy), and the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus (San Jose). To date, the Arts Council has distributed nearly \$2 million through this program's history.

To provide general operating support to professional and semi-professional arts groups with budgets ranging from \$100,000 to \$2 million, the Arts Council awarded grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to 36 organizations through its Regional Arts Fund (RAF) program. A few of the organizations receiving grants awards this year through this program include the Bay Area Glass Institute (San Jose), Euphrat Museum of Art (Cupertino), MACLA/Movimento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (San Jose), and the Stanford Jazz Workshop (Stanford). Throughout the program's history, more than \$3 million has been distributed through this program.

"Given these incredibly tough economic times, it's critical that the Arts Council financially sustains arts organizations that reflect our multicultural region," said Bruce W. Davis, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. "A great region deserves great art and it's the community's responsibility to ensure that artistic and creative innovation continues. We must all work together to support the arts and keep the artistic spirit alive in Silicon Valley."

In partnership with the County of Santa Clara, and as the largest private nonprofit arts council in the state, the Arts Council funds the most arts organizations of any funder in Santa Clara County through its grants programs. Once the applications are submitted, a grants panel of community members representative of county demographics and professional expertise review the applicants and make a funding recommendation to the Arts Council Board of Trustees. Grants are distributed each year in July.

To view a complete listing of all 2009 grants recipients, visit [www.artscouncil.org/about/grantees.asp](http://www.artscouncil.org/about/grantees.asp).

***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)