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**PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arts Council Silicon Valley Partners with Creative Work Fund Grant Program to Present First Informational Seminars for Arts Funding in Santa Clara County – Seminars to Assist Artists and Organizations with Funding Process –**

**Thursday, September 10, 2009, 3:30-5:00pm & 6:00-7:30pm  
At Movimiento de Arts y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA)  
San Jose, California**

**San Jose, CA, August 19, 2009** – In an effort to help bring more funding to deserving arts organizations and artists, Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced that it is partnering with the Creative Work Fund (CWF) to present its informational seminars on how to apply for funding to Santa Clara County artists and nonprofit organizations. This is the first time CWF funding for collaborative projects featuring performing or visual artists has been available in this County. In total, 14 California counties are now eligible to apply for CWF funding. The Santa Clara County seminars will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, from 3:00-5:00pm and 6:00-7:30pm at Movimiento de Arts y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA), 510 S. First Street, San Jose, California. Applicants are not required to attend a seminar, but the seminars fill quickly. To register, call 415.402.2794 at least two days before the event or visit [www.creativeworkfund.org/modern/seminars.html](http://www.creativeworkfund.org/modern/seminars.html) (preferred method).

“It’s wonderful to be able to extend the Fund’s reach to more California artists and community organizations,” said Frances Phillips, Director of the Creative Work Fund. “We are delighted to partner with Arts Council Silicon Valley in presenting these seminars and hope to encourage active participation from artists in Santa Clara County.”

**ABOUT THE CREATIVE WORK FUND (CWF)**

Since 1994, CWF has awarded \$6.7 million in grants to artists and nonprofit organizations that collaborate to create new arts works. Since 2004, the Fund has gradually expanded the geographic range of its program funding. With this year’s addition of Santa Clara and San Benito counties, artists and organizations from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and Stanislaus are now eligible to submit a letter of inquiry by Friday, November 6, 2009.

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Each year, the CWF awards grants to projects in two out of the five following broad artistic categories that include literary arts, media arts performing arts, traditional arts, and visual arts. This year the CWF is inviting projects featuring performing artists or visual artists and defines these artist practices as:

- Performing artists may be creators – such as playwrights, choreographers, and composers – or may be performers. The performing arts encompass dance, opera, performance art, theater, or vocal and instrumental music.
- Visual artists include those with experience in painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, installation art, public art, drawing, crafts, graphics, ceramics, design, or artists' books. (Video and sound-based installations artists and artists creating new genre, time-based works should apply as media artists in future years.

The Creative Work Fund is a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund that also is supported by generous grants from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. Please visit [www.creativeworkfund.org](http://www.creativeworkfund.org) for more information.

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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)