



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arts Council Silicon Valley Announces Call for Arts Leadership Award Nominations

~ Leaders to be Recognized at 2010 Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards (ABBYs) ~

SAVE-THE-DATE!

The ABBY Awards | Friday, May 7, 2010 | 11:30am – 1:30pm | Fairmont Hotel, San Jose

San Jose, CA, January 19, 2010 – Arts Council Silicon Valley announced today that it is seeking nominations for its *Arts Leadership Award* that will honor outstanding leaders representing arts organizations and institutions throughout Santa Clara County at the upcoming 2010 Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards (ABBYs) on May 7, 2010, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Produced by the Arts Council since 1989, the biennial ABBYs event is recognized as the singular philanthropic event that celebrates and recognizes businesses and individuals that have made significant contributions to the Arts. Proceeds benefit the Arts Council, which annually supports more than 600 local arts and cultural organizations through its grants and services. This year's theme, "*Extraordinary Times Call for Extraordinary People*," underscores the tremendous challenges arts groups have faced during these tough times. The *Arts Leadership Award* will honor those individuals who have worked tirelessly to produce work that continues to engage and inspire while dealing with sustainability and economic difficulties. As part of the program, the Arts Council will also honor Larry Stone, Santa Clara County Tax Assessor and co-founder of the Arts Council, with the *Lifetime Achievement Award*. Additional business award recipients will be announced in the coming months.

To qualify for the *Arts Leadership Award*, leaders must be nominated organizations in Santa Clara County that clearly further the arts in this region. Organizations that meet this basic requirement are encouraged to submit the name of *one individual* – a recognized leader (past or present) within the organization; Executive Director, Artistic Director, Founder, Board member, or core volunteer from the organization who:

- Has a strong public image and is the key "face" of the organization;
- Sets or has set the fiscal or creative direction that most impacts the success of the organization;
- Sets or has set the strategic or creative vision or goals for the organization.

All eligible nominees will be honored at the event and their nomination will be promoted both before and after the event. For additional event, ticket, and sponsorship information, and to access and submit the nomination form online visit: www.artscouncil.org or contact Lissa Jones at (408) 998-2787, ext. 202. **The nomination deadline is: February 1, 2010.**

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"At this year's ABBY awards, we will recognize the unsung heroes of the arts community—the leadership of our local arts organizations," said Bruce W. Davis, executive director of Arts Council Silicon Valley. "This particular generation of arts leaders has had to be as creative as possible to sustain their organizations, while continuing to present engaging work that enriches and inspires. We are excited to celebrate and honor them for their ongoing commitment to the arts in our community."

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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