



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Anna Weldon, Director of Communications
(408) 998-2787, ext. 217 / aweldon@artscouncil.org / www.artscouncil.org

Arts Council Silicon Valley Awarded National Endowment for the Arts 2009 “Access to Artistic Excellence Grant” \$30,000 Grant to Fund Deserving Small to Mid-Size Arts Organizations in Santa Clara County

San Jose, CA, May 7, 2009 – Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced that it has been awarded an “Access to Artistic Excellence Grant” for \$30,000 by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This grant will be utilized to fund small to mid-size arts organizations as part of the Arts Council's Community Arts Fund (CAF) grants program. This program supports arts projects such as performances and exhibitions that reflect the numerous diverse cultures represented in Santa Clara County. As the official state/local partner with the County of Santa Clara, the Arts Council has been recognized as eligible for this funding and is one of only two authorized NEA regranteeing agencies in the State of California.

“This grant not only underscores the importance of our CAF grants program in the local arts community, but the value of our strong partnership with the County of Santa Clara in being able to assume this critical eligibility requirement for funding,” explained Bruce W. Davis, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. “Our status as one of only two authorized regranteeing agencies in all of California is particularly significant for arts organizations in this region as they are all working hard to secure funding to maintain their programs in these difficult economic times.”

ABOUT THE ACCESS TO ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE GRANTS

The Access to Artistic Excellence grants support the creation and presentation of work in the disciplines of dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting, theater, and visual arts. Projects include commissions, residencies, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals, and professional development programs. This round of funding from the NEA also supports grants to local arts agencies for multidisciplinary projects, such as community-wide festivals, public art commissions, and artist residencies. Through the Access to Artistic Excellence category, the NEA will fund 642 projects out of 1,197 eligible applications throughout the United States, for a total of \$14,659,500.

- more -

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ARTS FUND (CAF)

The Community Arts Fund provides project support for arts activities reflective of our multicultural region, with an emphasis on encouraging small, community-based, volunteer-driven organizations. Through the Community Arts Fund, the Arts Council strives to:

- Recognize and encourage non-professional, volunteer activities as an essential part of the county's cultural environment;
- Support cultural activities which reflect the dynamic, diverse, and innovative character of Santa Clara County; and,
- Stimulate local support particularly at the grassroots level.

-- ### --

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