



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Larry Stone Named Recipient of the 2010 Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards (ABBYs) Lifetime Achievement Award

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 has named Larry Stone, Santa Clara County Assessor and co-founder of the Arts Council, with the 2010 Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards (ABBYs) *Lifetime Achievement Award*. Stone will receive the award at the upcoming 2010 ABBYs Awards luncheon on May 7, 2010, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. The ABBYs Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and dedication to supporting the arts throughout Santa Clara County.

“Larry’s dedication and leadership in advancing the arts in Santa Clara County is truly outstanding,” said Bruce W. Davis, executive director at Arts Council Silicon Valley. “He has successfully leveraged his extensive knowledge and network within local, State and Federal governments to promote and creatively identify support for the arts throughout the region.”

For more than 30 years, Stone has been an ardent champion of the arts, integrating his financial and political background into leadership of several key arts “start-ups” that have dynamically changed the image of the arts throughout the region and beyond. Beginning with his role as co-founder and longest serving member of Arts Council Silicon Valley, he not only served as Board President, but led the effort to create the Arts Council’s non-profit governance model. During his tenure as President he also helped establish the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) as a major source of funding for the Arts Council, generating over \$6.3 million since its inception. In addition, he led the effort to provide for an insert in the property tax bill enabling property taxpayers to make a donation to the Arts Council. As Mayor of Sunnyvale, Stone was instrumental in creating many facets of the City’s arts presence. His many accomplishments include establishing Sunnyvale’s Arts Commission and the creation of that City’s first budget allocation for the arts. Stone has served on the Board of Directors for numerous arts organizations including the Community School of Music & Arts (CSMA) and the Euphrat Gallery, DeAnza College. Last year he was the Honorary Chair of the San Jose Jazz festival and currently he serves on the San Jose Jazz Advisory Board and is involved as a member of 1stACT Arts Investment Catalyst Team.

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ABOUT THE 2010 ABBYs

The Silicon Valley Arts & Business Awards (ABBYs), produced by Arts Council Silicon Valley (ACSV), celebrates and honors individuals and businesses that support the creative and cultural activities in our region. Since 1989, this biennial luncheon has been the singular philanthropic event that brings the entire community together to celebrate the arts in Santa Clara County and recognize those who support them. This year's theme, *"Extraordinary Times Call for Extraordinary People,"* underscores the tremendous challenges arts groups have faced during these tough times. Proceeds from the ABBYs benefit Arts Council Silicon Valley, which annually supports more than 600 local arts and cultural organizations through our grants and services. For additional event, ticket, and sponsorship information visit: www.artscouncil.org or contact Lissa Jones at (408) 998-2787, ext. 202

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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