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SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ADVANCES THE ARTS WITH GRANTS OF \$200,000 TO 17 DIVERSE ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA – Seventeen diverse arts and cultural organizations have been awarded grants of \$10,000 to \$15,000 through Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s *Advancing the Arts Initiative*.

“Arts and culture are essential to a healthy, vital community,” said Eleanor Clement Glass, chief giving officer for Silicon Valley Community Foundation. “In a time when state and local support for the arts has been slashed, it’s important for the community to support the arts. These 17 groups represent the wide variety of small and mid-size arts organizations that create a healthy ecosystem for the arts.”

Through its *Advancing the Arts Initiative*, the community foundation not only provides grants for small and mid-sized local arts nonprofits, but technical assistance to help the organizations improve their internal infrastructure. The initiative is in its third year.

Clement Glass noted that this year’s cohort of grantees is diverse both in the communities they serve and in the types of art they create. “We are funding dance, music, theater and visual arts programs that reflect Silicon Valley’s diversity,” she said. “These programs serve all ages. Many of these organizations not only provide entertainment opportunities for our community, but opportunities to participate, learn and create.”

“The arts not only inspire and make us feel good, they do good,” Clement Glass added. “The arts help children succeed in school and foster the type of creativity that drives Silicon Valley’s innovation.”

The seventeen arts organizations funded by the community foundation’s *Advancing the Arts Initiative* are listed below. Funding for Advancing the Arts was provided by The James Irvine Foundation and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose

\$10,000

www.abhinaya.org

Since 1980, Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose has been promoting and teaching the traditional dance forms of South India. Its quality educational programs and creative performances entertain and enrich the lives of residents throughout the region.

Art in Action, Menlo Park

\$10,000

www.artinaction.org

Art in Action was founded in 1982 to reestablish quality art education in the elementary school classroom at a time when Proposition 13 was decimating art programs in the Bay Area. Originally conceived by an art history teacher who had children in an elementary school in Menlo Park, Art in Action gradually grew into a fully developed series of discipline-based curriculums teaching art appreciation, art history, and art production to children in grades K-8. Today there are 60 schools in the Bay Area and beyond teaching the Art in Action curriculum, including public and private schools in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties.

Ballet Afsaneh Art and Culture Society, San Jose

\$10,000

www.dancesilkroad.org

Ballet Afsaneh Art and Culture Society is dedicated to presenting the dance, music and poetry of the historic Silk Road regions of Central Asia. The regions represented by the Ballet Afsaneh repertoire include; Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Turkey, Chinese Turkistan, Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, and North India. In our rapidly changing world the need for cultural understanding and preservation has never been greater; Ballet Afsaneh brings to life the history, poetry and spiritual images of these enduring cultures. The majority of the 15 core dancers, poets and musicians performing with the company are first generation immigrants from Central Asia and Asia Minor, and almost all are women. Local classes are held at the Camden Community Center in San Jose.

Calaveras Repertory Theatre, Milpitas

\$10,000

www.calaverasrep.com

For nine years, Calaveras Repertory Theatre has celebrated the power of language and the poetry of everyday life through actor-driven, mainstage productions of Shakespeare and other popular classics. In addition to being the only professional theatre in Milpitas, Calaveras Rep also brings theater to thousands of students through educational outreach programs.

City Lights Theater Company of San Jose

\$10,000

www.cltc.org

The City Lights Theater Company presents adventurous live stage productions in an intimate and flexible 99-seat performance venue in Downtown San Jose. The company is committed to producing plays that are lesser-known and uncommon, yet which still speak strongly to the experiences of its audience. City Lights actively develops and produces new plays. It also encourages the growth of smaller “nomad” theatre companies through its Spotlight Series. City Lights is widely regarded as a nurturing space in which many up-and-coming actors, directors, designers and technicians are given an opportunity to develop their theater skills and communicate their visions.

El Camino Youth Symphony Association, Palo Alto

\$15,000

www.ecys.org

The El Camino Youth Symphony is dedicated to nurturing, training and developing young musicians from culturally diverse backgrounds and encouraging a lasting appreciation of music, as well as to providing high-quality performance opportunities for young people and outstanding musical events for the wider community. The symphony was founded in 1963, and today more than 400 K-12 students from more than 100 schools from San Francisco to Santa Cruz train and perform in five

orchestras and four ensembles, led by the award-winning, internationally recognized Symphony Orchestra. In 2007, the symphony will perform in Finland, Estonia and Russia, as Music Director Dr. Camilla Kolchinsky returns with her young musicians to her homeland with stops in Helsinki, Tallinn and St. Petersburg.

Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra, San Jose **\$10,000**

www.fyco.org

Founded just seven years ago, the Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra today has more than 120 young people from age 7 to 16 learning and playing traditional Chinese music. Many of these youths are American-born of Chinese descent, and the orchestra's mission is to promote Chinese music as an integral part of Chinese-American culture and, as a result, strengthen the Chinese community and enhance the cultural diversity and richness of American society. The orchestra's accomplishments include has performances at the historic California Theater and in China. Its educational programs take place at San Jose City College.

Palo Alto Art Center Foundation **\$10,000**

www.paacf.org

The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation's mission is to support the mission and goals of the Palo Alto Art Center, promote unique art experiences and education for people of all ages, and serve as the center's advocates and ambassadors in the community. The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation supports art education programs for children in Palo Alto and neighboring school districts, adult studio art classes, exhibitions and a unique art mentoring program for teenagers.

Peninsula Symphony, Los Altos Hills **\$15,000**

www.peninsulasympphony.org

In 1949, the Peninsula Symphony was founded to bring world class music at affordable prices to audiences close to home. Since then, thousands of residents between San Francisco and San Jose have enjoyed concert series featuring world-renowned soloists, family concerts, holiday concerts, and free outdoor "pops" programs. Thousands of children have received music education, coaching and encouragement to pursue their own music making. With the arrival of current conductor Mitchell Sardou Klein, the Peninsula Symphony grew from a grassroots ensemble to a polished 90-plus member orchestra of well-trained community musicians.

Peninsula Women's Chorus, Palo Alto **\$10,000**

www.pwchorus.org

The Peninsula Women's Chorus is a 50-voice women's choir performing high-quality classical and contemporary music in the Bay Area and many parts of the world. Committed to excellence in the performance of diverse and challenging choral literature for women's voices, the chorus has come to national and international attention through live performance and recordings and has added significantly to the choral literature by commissioning new music. Founded in 1966 under the auspices of the Association of American University Women, the Peninsula Women's Chorus is now affiliated with Foothill College in Los Altos, California, and is the premier vocal ensemble for women in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Peninsula Youth Orchestra, Palo Alto

\$10,000

www.peninsulayouthorchestra.org

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra serves young people ages 6 to 18, who learn, rehearse and perform symphonic music in an educational setting which encourages enthusiasm, knowledge and love of music. The Peninsula Youth Orchestra, now serving more than 400 musicians in four orchestras and several chamber groups, offers weekly instruction in orchestral training at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. All musicians study the traditional orchestral repertoire with an emphasis on contemporary literature and works by American composers.

Peninsula Youth Theatre, Mountain View

\$15,000

www.pytnet.org

Peninsula Youth Theatre provides outstanding theatrical learning experiences that develop leadership, emphasize responsibility and foster teamwork in a supportive, respectful environment. Its family atmosphere successfully uses theater performances and classes to develop a strong sense of self-esteem and to nurture social and communication skills that are useful in all walks of life. Peninsula Youth Theatre is committed to providing an enriching theatrical experience in local schools, thereby reinforcing the positive role the arts play in academic success.

San Jose Chamber Orchestra

\$10,000

www.sjco.org

The mission of the San Jose Chamber Orchestra is to make music that matters by commissioning and premiering creative, relevant, communicative, moving and entertaining works from both emerging and established composers of diverse cultural and musical backgrounds. Now in its sixteenth season, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, has premiered more than 60 new works, and has become well known for innovative and engaging programming. The orchestra regularly performs at Le Petit Trianon in Downtown San Jose and at Mission Santa Clara.

San Jose Children's Musical Theater

\$10,000

www.cmtsj.org

Children's Musical Theater San Jose is dedicated to using musical theater to train and educate the youth of today to become the artists, patrons, citizens, and leaders of tomorrow. Founded in 1968, CMT is the largest theatrical performing arts and training organization of its kind in the nation. More than 60,000 young people have participated in productions over the years. CMT is known nationally for its unique policy of casting every child who auditions. CMT produces four annual Mainstage (ages 14 to 20) and four annual Rising Star (ages 6 to 13) productions at San Jose's Montgomery Theater.

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art

\$15,000

www.sjica.org

The ICA presents forward-looking, thought-provoking, and exciting contemporary art by emerging and established Bay Area artists. The ICA reflects and interprets the cultural and technical diversity of the region and helps us see the lives we are living through the art of our time. In June, the ICA will re-open in an owned building in Downtown San Jose with double the exhibition space, a Reading/Resource room for artists and collectors, a new media project room and a center for

printmaking. Two large windows on the façade will accommodate multiple after dark video projections, continuing the ICA's innovative Night Moves program.

San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild **\$10,000**

www.sjmag.org

The San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild's mission is to unite and serve communities by conducting cross-cultural arts programming reflective of the experiences of African-Americans, women and Chicano/Latinos. Incorporated in 1990, the guild is a resident arts organization at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose. Organizations operating under its umbrella include Maiko Women's Drum & Poetry Ensemble which fuses African, Latin and Brazilian drums and percussion instrument with body movement, expression and spoken word; Teatro Family Aztlan, a Chicano/Latino theater ensemble; and Tabia, an African-American theater ensemble.

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles **\$15,000**

www.sjqiltmuseum.org

The San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles promotes the art, craft and history of quilts and textiles to raise the public's awareness and understanding of textiles as intention forms of self-expression and as art in everyday life. Textile art transcends cultural, ethnic and age boundaries and encompasses traditional as well as contemporary forms. The museum provides a serious venue for all artists working with textiles, filling a void left by larger institutions with a narrower view of what defines artistic expression. Its exhibits and programs promote the appreciation of quilts and textiles as art and provide an understanding of their role in the lives of their makers, in cultural traditions, and as historical documents.

About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

The merger of Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Peninsula Community Foundation took effect on January 1, 2007, creating Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to the region's most challenging problems. The new community foundation is among the largest community foundations in the nation, with more than \$1.5 billion in assets under management and 1,400 philanthropic funds.

In a region known for innovation in business and technology as well as philanthropy, the new community foundation will address local needs and support Silicon Valley's charitable giving to causes locally, nationally and around the globe. The integration marks the first merger of equals involving two of the country's leading community foundations and sets new precedent in the philanthropic sector. The new regional headquarters will open in Mountain View in the summer of 2007.

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