



Press Release

Office of Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Steven Brewster (408) 535-8168
San Jose Office of Economic Development
steven.brewster@sanjoseca.gov

CHAMPIONS OF ARTS EDUCATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Honor recognizes those who have made the arts a high learning priority

SAN JOSE, CALIF— (April 8, 2008) —The City of San Jose’s Office of Cultural Affairs has announced the winners of the 2008 Champions of Arts Education Awards.

The 2008 winners are: Peter Gelfand, artistic director of the San Jose String Quartet & Chamber Players, for arts education efforts in Evergreen Elementary and San Jose Unified School Districts; Rosalia Guillen-Novotny, dance and folklorico teacher, Lincoln High School, San Jose Unified School District; Kristin Steenberg, visual and performing arts lead teacher, Oak Grove School District, and Kathryn Longtin, parent volunteer, Allen at Steinbeck School, San Jose Unified School District.

The awards honor exemplary educators, administrators, parents, schools and partners who champion high quality arts education programs in San Jose’s public schools.

“I salute the Champion of Arts Education Award winners. Their work in San Jose public schools serves as a model for other educators,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. “Arts education incubates creativity, helping ensure that our next generation of innovators has the skills necessary to compete globally and participate in Silicon Valley’s growing creative industries sector.”

Envisioned by San Arts Commissioner Lisa Gonzales, the Champions of Arts Education Awards promote efforts that have contributed to enhancing arts education in schools while also maintaining important political and educational momentum.

“The award recipients all have made extraordinary contributions to arts education in San Jose. Their work has had a positive and indelible impact on our youth and serves to inspire others to follow in their footsteps. On behalf of the Arts Commission, we applaud Commissioner Gonzales for taking the Champions of Arts Education Awards from dream to reality,” said Sharon Gustafson, chair, San Jose Arts Commission.

About the Office of Cultural Affairs

The Office of Cultural Affairs is a unit of the City's Office of Economic Development. Together, we foster cultural and economic development as related strategies for continuing to build San Jose as the cultural and economic heart of Silicon Valley. The Office of Cultural Affairs coordinates services for a large number of outdoor events and festivals, offers a variety of financial support opportunities for arts and culture providers, supports arts education, and leads the development of public art works throughout the city. The Office of Cultural Affairs also provides staff support for the San Jose Arts Commission, a 13-member citizen advisory body appointed by the City Council. For more information, please visit, www.sanjoseculture.org.

About the City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to a vital, competitive San Jose economy that increases prosperity for people and companies and enhances City revenues. The Office guides the City's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, helps connect employers with trained workers, and provides art and cultural resources to our community. For more information, please visit, www.sjeconomy.com.

About the City of San Jose

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, www.sanjoseca.gov.

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