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**\*\*EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008\*\***

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## **\$3.15 Million in Grants to Eight Community Foundations Give Boost to California Arts Scene**

### *Second Phase of Irvine Foundation's Communities Advancing the Arts Initiative Builds on First-Round Successes*

**San Francisco, CA** — The James Irvine Foundation today announced nearly \$3.2 million in grants to eight California community foundations that will support local arts efforts as part of its Communities Advancing the Arts (CAA) initiative. The grants seek to deepen gains made in local arts donor involvement since the initiative's launch in 2004. Irvine invested \$4.75 million in phase one, which extended from 2004 through 2007. Eight community foundations, six of which participated in phase one, will share \$3.15 million in grants approved by Irvine's Board of Directors on Wednesday.

Irvine's initial \$4.75 million investment enabled participating community foundations to mobilize \$59 million in assets for the arts over three years (a 48 percent increase in assets dedicated to the arts), as well as create 181 new funds dedicated to the arts at participating community foundations.

"The Irvine Foundation is committed to supporting vibrant artistic and cultural communities throughout California," said James E. Canales, President and CEO of the Irvine Foundation. "We are pleased that our support is enabling community foundations to foster sustainable funding streams for arts organizations in their communities."

Public funding for the arts has reached new lows in recent years. The California Arts Council, which traditionally funded local arts programs throughout the state, has seen its budget slashed from \$31 million in 2000 to just \$5 million in 2007. Private donations have also dipped over the past 15 years, leaving many arts organizations struggling for survival. Irvine's CAA initiative is intended to foster grantmaking and individual donations to arts organizations in targeted communities.

Phase two CAA grants will be distributed as follows: \$400,000 to the Community Foundation for Monterey County; \$500,000 to the Community Foundation Sonoma County; \$500,000 to the Orange County Community Foundation; \$450,000 to the Sacramento Region Community Foundation; \$450,000 to the San Diego Foundation; \$400,000 jointly to the San Francisco Foundation and the East Bay Community Foundation; and \$450,000 to the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Goals and planned activities of participating CAA community foundations include:

#### **Community Foundation for Monterey County**

- Help small arts organizations in under-resourced parts of the county build their own donor bases, fundraise more effectively and, where feasible, raise small endowments

- Partner with the local arts council to help implement the goals from the recently adopted regional cultural plan

**Community Foundation Sonoma County**

- Raise \$300,000 in endowment support for its Artist Award Fund
- Work with the local arts council to create a signature cultural festival for the county

**Orange County Community Foundation**

- Raise a \$1.2 million endowment for the arts
- Support arts organizations to build endowments, where feasible
- Support arts education programs for youth

**Sacramento Region Community Foundation**

- Establish a \$700,000 “giving circle” fund for the arts
- Host events to connect donors and artists and highlight Sacramento’s vibrant cultural sector

**San Diego Foundation**

- Mobilize donors to endow local arts organizations
- Launch a new regranting program and continue to reach out to individual donors to encourage them to support the arts

**San Francisco Foundation/East Bay Community Foundation**

- Encourage community foundation donors to give more substantially to the arts
- Continue to offer matching grants to small arts organizations to commission new art work
- Create a “Cultural Corridor” in the East Bay to link artists and arts organizations, increase the visibility of artists, and provide a map of cultural offerings

**Ventura County Community Foundation**

- Support lesser-known areas of the arts sector, such as everyday artists, community-based arts serving Ventura residents and professional artists living and working in Ventura County
- Showcase the local cultural landscape and challenge the community foundation’s donors to increase their financial support of the sector
- Train and support local arts organizations in building direct relationships with donors

**About The James Irvine Foundation**

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society. The Foundation’s grantmaking is organized around three program areas: Arts, Youth and California Perspectives, which focuses on improving decision making on significant state issues. Since 1937 the Foundation has provided over \$1 billion in grants to more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations throughout California. With current assets of over \$1.8 billion, the Foundation expects to make grants of \$81 million in 2008 for the people of California.

For more information about the Irvine Foundation, please visit our Web site at [www.irvine.org](http://www.irvine.org) or call 415.777.2244.

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