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Inspiring leaders to ACT

**1stACT Silicon Valley Announces Participants of
2010 Multicultural Arts Leadership Initiative**

San Jose, CA, March 11, 2010 – 1stACT Silicon Valley, a network of business, civic and arts leaders working to improve the cultural vibrancy and aesthetic quality of life of Silicon Valley, has announced the participants of its 2010 multicultural leadership training and mentoring initiative, MALI (Multicultural Arts Leadership Initiative).

Now in its third full year, MALI strives to accomplish three overarching goals: 1) to identify future and emerging multicultural arts leaders; 2) to develop and deliver a training program that will provide these individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to stabilize or grow their organizations; and 3) to equip these leaders to participate in community-wide forums, initiatives and taskforces as advocates for a strong and healthy multicultural arts community.

Here are the participants of the 2010 MALI Class:

- ***Pilar Aguero-Esparza***: Visual Artist, the Harker School
- ***Sheila Bernus Dowd***: Left Coast Live
- ***Julie Cardenas***: San Jose Museum of Art
- ***Tricia Creason-Valencia***: Principal, FlacaFilms
- ***Aggie Idemoto***: President, Japanese American Museum of San Jose
- ***Drena Lewis***: Administrative Assistant, CreaTV
- ***Grace-Sonia Melanio***: Membership Relations, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
- ***Abraham Menor***: Photographer, DeBug, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
- ***Angelica Muro***: Instructor CSU Monterey Bay, Visual Artist, Space 47
- ***Fred Salas***: Program Coordinator, Performing & Literary Arts, MACLA
- ***Joan Ling Zwissler***: Musician

“I am very excited to add these 11 strong individuals to our network,” said Tamara Alvarado, 1stACT Silicon Valley’s Director of Multicultural Leadership. “This year’s class is very diverse in both thought and experience. We welcome them into the MALI family.”

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ABOUT 1stACT SILICON VALLEY

1stACT Silicon Valley is a network of cross-sector leaders who care about the cultural and aesthetic quality of life in Silicon Valley. We are working collectively to build: 1) and authentic *sense of place* that fuels community pride and investment; 2) a quality of mix of *creative experiences* that foster community, cross-cultural understanding and innovation; and 3) a cultural and aesthetic *quality of life* that attracts and inspires a creative workforce. For more information, visit www.1stact.org.

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