

For Immediate Release

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Susan Hammer to Receive “Cornerstone of the Arts” Award

Former San Jose Mayor recognized for long-term community arts leadership

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Former San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer will receive the 2014 “Cornerstone of the Arts” award for her long-term vision and effective leadership in fostering the arts and cultural sector in San Jose at a celebration at the California Theatre on Friday, September 5.

- What:** Cornerstone of the Arts
- When:** Friday, September 5
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; Program starts at 6:15 p.m.
- Where:** California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San Jose
- Who:** Susan Hammer, Former Mayor of San Jose
Chuck Reed, Mayor of San Jose
Sam Liccardo, San Jose City Councilmember
Peter Allen, Vice Chair, San Jose Arts Commission
Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs

“Susan Hammer exemplifies the spirit of the Cornerstone of the Arts Award. As a civic leader, she has understood the vital importance of the role of arts and culture in San Jose’s quality of life and economic prosperity,” said Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of Cultural Affairs. “With the benefit of her leadership, many of our community’s preeminent cultural organizations and facilities were created during her years on the City Council and as Mayor. For her enduring contributions to the cultural life of San Jose, it is fitting that she is honored with this annual award.”

During her tenure as councilmember from 1983 to 1990 and as Mayor from 1991 to 1999, Susan Hammer worked to improve public safety, education and access to the arts. She helped

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2-2-2

lead the community efforts that established nationally recognized Tech Museum of Innovation, build the modern downtown performance hall that served as the home of the San Jose Repertory Theatre, and create the first comprehensive cultural plan for San Jose.

In 1969, she helped found a community art museum that became the San Jose Museum of Art, and with her husband Phil Hammer, they were active in the 1970s in the San Jose Performing Arts League.

About the Cornerstone of the Arts Award: Established in 2013, the annual Cornerstone of the Arts Award honors individuals who have provided enduring and effective leadership contributing to the betterment of the San Jose arts community and improving the quality of life for our residents. Approved by the San Jose Arts Commission, honorees are considered as part of the foundation of the arts in San Jose who will be long remembered as a “cornerstone” of the arts community. The inaugural 2013 Cornerstone of the Arts Honoree was Irene Dalis, founder of Opera San Jose.

About the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs: OCA is a division of the San Jose Office of Economic Development and serves as a leading agency for promoting the development of a rich arts and cultural environment for the city’s diverse population of one million residents and the employees in the Capital of Silicon Valley. OCA fosters cultural development through funding programs, arts industry support, creative entrepreneur support, special event services, and public art. For more information, visit www.sanjoseculture.org.

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