

For Immediate Release

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Contacts

Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of Cultural Affairs, City of San José
(408) 793-4333; kerry.adams-hapner@sanjoseca.gov

Cara Douglas, Chief Business Communications Officer, City of San José
(408) 535-8168; cara.douglas@sanjoseca.gov

Carmen and Alcario Castellano to Receive San José “Cornerstone of the Arts” Award

*Founders of the Castellano Family Foundation recognized for
their dedication to South Bay arts and cultural community*

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Carmen and Alcario Castellano will receive the 2015 “Cornerstone of the Arts” Award for their enthusiastic and profound commitment to the San José arts and cultural community at a celebration at the California Theatre on Friday, October 2.

- What:** Cornerstone of the Arts
- When:** Friday, October 2
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; Program starts at 6:15 p.m.
- Where:** California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San José
- Who:** Carmen and Alcario Castellano
San José Mayor Sam Liccardo
Magdalena Carrasco, San José City Councilmember
Peter Allen, Chair, San José Arts Commission
Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of San José Office of Cultural Affairs
Recipients of San José Cultural Affairs grants

“Carmen and Al Castellano exemplify the spirit of the Cornerstone of the Arts Award. They understand the vital importance of arts and culture for San José’s quality of life,” said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo.

“They generously give back to this community in the form of their time, leadership, and financial resources, with the result that many of our community’s cultural organizations can better celebrate diverse arts, promote cross-cultural understanding, and enhance access and cultural equity.

“For their enduring contributions to the cultural life of San José, it is fitting that we honor them with this annual award.”

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Since the 1990s, Carmen and Alcario Castellano have graciously volunteered their time to the community and have worked with multiple organizations and non-profits throughout San José that promote diversity in local arts and culture, create safer communities, and support economic opportunity.

In 2001, Carmen and Alcario hit one of the biggest jackpots when they won the California State Lottery. With their winnings, they established the Castellano Family Foundation that now focuses investments in Latino arts and culture, education leadership development, and diversity in Santa Clara County. Since its inception, the foundation has granted \$3.5 million to non-profits in San José and Santa Clara County.

The Cornerstone of the Arts celebration also recognizes the contributions of the San José cultural sector on the quality of life in San José. Leadership from community-based organization that are receiving FY 2015-2016 Cultural Affairs grants will be present and acknowledged for their impact.

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 José arts community and improving the quality of life for our residents. Approved by the San José Arts Commission, honorees are considered as part of the foundation of the arts in San José who will be long remembered as a “cornerstone” of the arts community. The inaugural 2013 Cornerstone of the Arts Honoree was late Irene Dalis, founder of Opera San José. The 2014 Cornerstone of the Arts Honoree was Mayor Susan Hammer.

About the San José Office of Cultural Affairs: OCA is a division of the San José 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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