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**San Jose Live Music Scene Gets a Boost
through 1stACT and San Jose Jazz Collaboration**

March 1, 2012, San Jose, CA – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed this week by the Boards of Directors of San Jose Jazz and 1stACT Silicon Valley formalizes and expands a yearlong collaboration to strengthen live music in downtown San Jose.

Under the terms of the MOU, the two organizations are expanding last year's inaugural Winter Fest to multiple venues in the San Pedro Square district, March 9-11. Music programming will continue to expand in the district with weekly live performances at the new San Pedro Square Market beginning in March. Over the past year, the collaboration added more than 40 new performances throughout downtown San Jose and strengthened music participation opportunities for all ages such as the highly popular jazz jam at the Hedley Club.

In a separate move, San Jose Jazz announced that Michael Miller, current Executive Director of San Jose Jazz and chief architect of the 1stACT partnership, recently accepted the position of Managing Director for Children's Musical Theater. Miller will transition from Executive Director to Board Member of San Jose Jazz. "I am proud of the creative collaboration model we have designed with 1stACT and confident of the positive impact it will have on San Jose's music scene and the city's vibrancy," said Miller. "I'm looking forward to be a Board Member of San Jose Jazz, an organization very dear to my heart, and thrilled to keep contributing to the success of our arts community through my leadership at CMTSJ."

Brendan Rawson, who worked with Michael Miller on the partnership as the Director of Cultural Participation for 1stACT, will become San Jose Jazz Acting Executive Director beginning in March. "San Jose Jazz has been a key partner in helping to revitalize a live music scene in San Jose," said Rawson. "I'm excited about the continued growth we have planned, the expanding education programs, and working closely with the San Jose Jazz team."

Mike Warner, President of San Jose Jazz, described the collaboration as a smart strategy to build the organization's community-based programs in a fiscally prudent manner. "1stACT has been an outstanding partner. We are excited that Brendan is joining us and equally excited to have Michael joining our board. We view this as having the best of both worlds."

"This collaboration is one of the ways we are embedding our legacy initiatives in the community," said Rich Braugh, President of 1stACT Silicon Valley. "San Jose Jazz is an important partner, and I know Brendan will build on the work we have done together to fulfill our shared vision while serving San Jose Jazz's commitment to music education and San Jose's live music scene."

ABOUT SAN JOSE JAZZ

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2012, San Jose Jazz is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to enriching our community through music education and performance. The organization's purpose is to enhance the recognized value of arts to the individual and society, to promote healthy individuals, and to build a stronger, more vibrant community. www.sanjosejazz.org

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) an 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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