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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **47 Alameda County High School Students to Be Recognized as 2015 California Arts Scholars, California State Summer School for the Arts**

(Oakland, CA) – The County of Alameda is pleased to announce that 47 Alameda County High School Students have been selected as California Arts Scholars by the California State Summer School for the Arts (CSSSA) and the CSSSA Foundation. CSSSA is a four-week intensive, residential program that provides cutting edge, immersive arts education to the State's most motivated and talented high school artists. CSSSA offers courses taught by professional working artists and college-level professors in 7 artistic disciplines including: Animation, Creative Writing, Dance, Film, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts. Now in its 29th year, CSSSA 2015 will be held from July 11th to August 7th on the CalArts campus in Valencia, CA. Students accepted to CSSSA are designated as California Arts Scholars, the highest honor in the state of California for young artists, distinguishing them for their artistic excellence.

**The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will recognize the 47 Alameda County High School Students at their regular public meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, 11:00 am at the County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Fifth Floor, Board Chambers, Oakland.** Contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at 510-208-9646 for more information about the proclamation event. This event is open to the public. Each California Arts Scholar from Alameda County will receive a commendation from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and a certificate from the California State Summer School for the Arts.

After receiving thousands of applications from all over the state, an incredibly dynamic group of over 500 youth were accepted to CSSSA 2015. Students are accepted into this program solely based on artistic potential, and scholarships are provided to all students who depend on the financial support to participate. Alameda County students will be joined by peers who are equally dedicated, and learn from exceptional faculty members and renowned guest artists. The opportunity to spend a month focusing exclusively on their creative process is a transformative experience for these young artists.

To date, there are over 14,000 CSSSA alumni. Many CSSSA alumni have achieved fame in the entertainment industry, such as James Franco and Zac Efron. While others have become successful creative artists at places such as Pixar or managers of prominent arts organizations like the Centre Theatre Group in Los Angeles. CSSSA's success stories come in the form of building a bridge from high school to college. Graduates are offered: Three units of California State University course credits and opportunities to earn college scholarships.

The Alameda County Arts Commission is a proud partner of the CSSSA Arts Scholars Network which includes 21 county arts agencies selected to support and recognize local Arts Scholars. The goal of the network is to honor California Arts Scholars by recognizing the best and brightest arts students and highlight the value of arts education in the lives of our youth while continuing to build the creative economy of California. The CSSSA Arts Scholar Network is supported by the CSSSA Foundation the Herb Alpert Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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