

FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations Coordinator

413.243.9919 x132

ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL RECEIVES \$225,000 GRANT FROM
MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL FACILITIES FUND**

July 18, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival has recently received \$225,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF), a state initiative co-administered by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and MassDevelopment, to support the construction of a brand new year-round dance rehearsal and event space. The Perles Family Studio will be the home of The School at Jacob's Pillow and will host year-round community events and activities, as well as professional convenings and choreographic research, and technical residencies. The Pillow will celebrate the opening of the Perles Studio with an official ribbon cutting ceremony at the Festival Finale event, August 26, 2017. CFF grants support projects that create jobs in construction and cultural tourism; expand access and education in the arts, humanities, and sciences; and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The Pillow's \$225,000 award is among the largest grants distributed in this round.

"The Cultural Facilities Fund provides visionary and essential support for much-needed capital improvements — a rare thing in the non-profit arts world and especially valuable for a National Historic Landmark like Jacob's Pillow," said Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge. "The Perles Studio will provide a beautiful new home for our School faculty, students, and guests and will make so many new year-round programs and initiatives possible. It is a key part of our recently-announced Vision '22 strategic plan and we are grateful to MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council for their support."

In writing about the new studio, State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli said that "it will provide the Pillow with the capacity to work more deeply with Berkshire area schools and with dancers and choreographers during the fall, winter and spring. Jacob's Pillow is a staple in the Western Massachusetts cultural community and vital to the economy in our region. Each summer, thousands of visitors and artists from all over Massachusetts, the country, and the world travel to the Berkshires to attend the summer festival. While in the area, these visitors shop, dine, and stay locally, and visit the many other cultural and arts organizations in the district. As the largest employer in Becket, MA, the Pillow supports the regional economy year round as well."

The \$5.5 million Perles Family Studio is a 7,373-square-foot dance studio and administrative space that will feature a 3,500-square-foot dance floor — nearly double the size of the main rehearsal space currently used by The School at Jacob's Pillow, the Sommers Studio. The building will be fully climate controlled, eliminating the current temperature and humidity challenges faced by dancers and artist faculty during the summer season. The space will accommodate room for spectators to view classes and rehearsals without interrupting dancers and faculty, and up to 200 seats for Inside/Out performances in the instances of rain and inclement weather. During the fall, winter, and spring months, the studio will be used for workshops, community events, professional convenings, and artist residencies. The name recognizes a lead gift from the Perles Family Foundation and Jacob's Pillow Trustee Claudia Perles. The building is designed by award-winning Flansburgh Architects of Boston, and constructed by Allegrone Companies of Pittsfield, MA.

This is the Pillow's sixth CFF grant. Past awards have supported the reconstruction of the Henry J. Leir "Inside/Out" Stage, the expansion and renovation of on-campus housing, furnace replacements to improve energy efficiency in the historic Derby House and the Doris Duke Theatre, the creation of more-accessible pathways throughout the campus, and the expansion of Blake's Barn, home of the Pillow's extensive Archives. The grant must be matched with funds from private or other public sources.

CFF grants have helped restore and preserve many of our nation's most cherished historic buildings, which attract cultural tourists to Massachusetts. More than 18 million people visit CFF-funded organizations annually, with nearly one third coming from out-of-state. MassDevelopment and MCC jointly administer the CFF, and an Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor provides oversight to its operation. The grants are supported through \$10 million from the state's fiscal year 2016 capital plan, authorized by the state Legislature and allocated by the Governor. CFF grants remain highly competitive: the Fund received 146 applications in this round seeking nearly \$25 million for projects with total development costs of more than \$200 million. For more background on CFF and its impact, go [here](#).

Fellow Berkshire County CFF grant recipients in this round of funding include The Bidwell House, Berkshire Pulse, The Clark Art Institute, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, and the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Vision '22 is a strategic approach for the Pillow's development over the next five years, through 2022. The plan provides a blueprint for enabling the Pillow to become a year-round center for dance creation and to more robustly serve artists and audiences alike. Three key areas of focus include: strengthening the artistic core, boosting civic leadership and community involvement, and renewing essential campus facilities. Jacob's Pillow is America's first and longest-running dance festival; as it celebrates its 85th anniversary this summer, the organization sets its sights on important future milestones.

ABOUT JACOB'S PILLOW: Jacob's Pillow, celebrating its 85th Festival in 2017, is a National Historic Landmark, recipient of the National Medal of Arts, and home to America's longest-running international dance festival. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, and events. The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the U.S., encompasses the diverse disciplines of Ballet, Cultural Traditions, Contemporary, and Musical Theatre Dance, as well as an Intern Program in various disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production. The Pillow's extensive Archives, open year-round to the public, chronicle more than a century of dance in photographs, programs, books, costumes, audiotapes, and videos. Notable artists who have created or premiered dances at the Pillow include choreographers Antony Tudor, Agnes de Mille, Alvin Ailey, Donald McKayle, Kevin McKenzie, Twyla Tharp, Ralph Lemon, Susan Marshall, Trisha Brown, Ronald K. Brown, Wally Cardona, Andrea Miller, and Trey McIntyre; performed by artists such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Carmen de Lavallade, Mark Morris, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Edward Villella, Rasta Thomas, and hundreds of others. On March 2, 2011, President Barack Obama honored Jacob's Pillow with a National Medal of Arts, the highest arts award given by the United States Government, making the Pillow the first dance presenting organization to receive this prestigious award. For more information, visit www.jacobspillow.org.

ABOUT MCC: The [Massachusetts Cultural Council](#) is a state agency supporting the arts, humanities, and sciences to improve the quality of life in Massachusetts and its communities. The MCC pursues this mission through grants, services, and advocacy for nonprofit cultural organizations, schools, communities, and artists.

ABOUT MASSDEVELOPMENT: MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, financial institutions, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2016, MassDevelopment financed or managed 352 projects generating investment of more than \$4 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are projected to create about 8,200 jobs and build or rehabilitate about 4,200 residential units.

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