

**FOR IMAGES AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nicole Tomasofsky, Public Relations Coordinator

413.243.9919 x132

[ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org](mailto:ntomasofsky@jacobspillow.org)**JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM  
THE FEIGENBAUM FOUNDATION**

July 18, 2017 – (Becket, MA) Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival has recently received \$10,000 from the Feigenbaum Foundation to support Pillow Pop-Up performances in conjunction with the award-winning street festival, Third Thursdays, in neighboring city, Pittsfield, MA. Third Thursdays, organized by the City of Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development, is the largest free outdoor event in the Berkshires area, connecting a wide range of community members and local businesses on North Street once a month from May through September with a wide range of family-friendly events. Taking dance into surrounding communities is a key objective of one of the three main strands of the Pillow's five-year strategic plan, Vision '22: Boosting Civic Leadership and Community Engagement.

"We are so honored to have received such a generous grant from the Feigenbaum Foundation. With this grant, we are able to take dance 'off the mountain' every month directly into our local communities where our neighbors are gathering. We have curated an exciting and multifaceted series that brings highly-acclaimed artists from around the world to Pittsfield," says Jacob's Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

This generous grant provides the means to allow for the technical and artistic support necessary to curate this summer-long series of Pillow Pop-Ups. The series includes: Ephrat Asherie Dance, an award-winning company of hip-hop dancers and break-dancers from New York City; Throwdown Dance Collective, a Toronto-based contemporary dance company that tours with unique props like an antique car; Eiko Otake: *A Body in Pittsfield*, the newest installment of MacArthur Award-winner Otake's highly-acclaimed site-specific performance art series; Stilo Dance, a performance group rooted in Latin social dance, blending Afro-Cuban Folkloric, contemporary, and modern with traditional Latin styles; and Akwaaba Traditional African Drum & Dance Ensemble, a New England based company that performs Highlife music, West African drumming, and West African dance. Pillow Pop-Up performances at Third Thursdays are also sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union.

**About Third Thursdays**

Third Thursdays are sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union. This award-winning, family-friendly cultural street festival is held every Thursday from May through October, featuring live music, local food, craft vendors, street performers, and more. On the day of this monthly event, Pittsfield's North Street is closed to vehicular traffic from 5pm-8pm from West Street to Linden Street and filled with music, performance, food, and community activities. Other season sponsors of this event include Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Gas, General Dynamics Mission Systems, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**About The Feigenbaum Foundation**

The Feigenbaum Foundation was founded in 1988 by brothers Armand and Donald Feigenbaum out of a deep respect and love for the Berkshires. The Foundation focuses its financial assistance primarily on pursuits related to or associated with education in technology, engineering and management; academic institutions and disciplines; medical institutions and disciplines; cultural programs and projects; community-based tax-exempt organizations in Berkshire county area; and established religious institutions, programs and projects.

**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](http://www.jacobspillow.org).

###