DIANE WORTIS JOINS JACOB’S PILLOW AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPIC ENGAGEMENT

July 3, 2018—(Becket, MA) Jacob’s Pillow announces that Diane Wortis will join the organization as Deputy Director of Philanthropic Engagement beginning on July 3, 2018. Jacob’s Pillow is a National Historic Landmark, National Medal of the Arts recipient, home to America’s longest running dance festival, and has recently expanded to become a year-round center for dance research and development.

“We are so delighted to have such a seasoned and accomplished professional joining our Development team. There are so many opportunities for investing in the Pillow right now, and with Diane’s leadership, we look forward to expanding the circle of supporters who want to ensure that this national treasure continues to thrive,” says Jacob’s Pillow Director Pamela Tatge.

“Dancers have a special ability to bring people together, from all walks of life, through the language of movement. The Pillow has been bringing diverse artists and audiences to the Berkshires since its founding. I am honored to have this opportunity to partner with Pam, Alex, and the Pillow’s loyal supporters at this important time in the organization’s growth and at a time in our nation when more cross-cultural dialogue and understanding is needed,” says Diane Wortis.

As Deputy Director of Philanthropic Engagement, Wortis will work closely with Director of Development Alexandra Groff, Director Pamela Tatge, and the Board of Trustees to set the Pillow’s strategy for all fundraising and major gifts integral to the Pillow’s $7.1 million annual operating budget. This position will also be focused on donor relations pertaining to Vision ’22, the organization’s strategic plan for growth through 2022, which enables the Pillow to more robustly serve artists and audiences alike—in Berkshire county and beyond—as a year-round institution.

Wortis has worked for numerous Berkshire-based organizations, most recently as the Director of Development & Alumnae Relations at Miss Hall’s School in Pittsfield, MA where she oversaw a historic increase in major and planned gift giving. Prior to her work at Miss Hall’s, Wortis also served as Director of Development at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute where she secured a major grant from The Kresge Foundation to help complete the first phase of the Clark’s $145 million campus expansion.

Wortis brings over thirty years of experience in fundraising, leadership, communication, and nonprofit management to her role at Jacob’s Pillow. Additional experience includes executive, development, and communications roles at Austen Riggs Center, Boston Arts Academy Foundation, The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Harvard University, and Huntington Theatre Company. Wortis also has an
acting and dance background, and got her start working at the Institute for Contemporary Dance in her hometown of Cambridge, MA. She received a B.A. from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and an M.B.A from Simmons College’s School of Management.

ABOUT JACOB’S PILLOW: Jacob’s Pillow is a National Historic Landmark, recipient of the National Medal of Arts, and home to America’s longest-running international dance festival. While celebrating its 85th Festival in 2017, the Pillow announced its transition to becoming a year-round center for dance through a five-year strategic plan titled Vision ‘22. Each Festival includes more than 50 national and international dance companies and over 350 free and ticketed performances, talks, tours, classes, exhibits, events, and community programs. 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, Contemporary, Musical Theatre Dance, Choreography, and an annual rotating program (Gaga in 2018). The Pillow also provides professional advancement opportunities across disciplines of arts administration, design, video, and production through seasonal internships and a year-round Administrative Fellows program. With growing community engagement programs, the Pillow serves as a partner and active citizen in its local community. The Pillow’s extensive Archives, open year-round to the public and online at danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org, 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, 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.

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