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BERKSHIRE-BASED COMMUNITY MEMBERS

COME TOGETHER IN DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE FOR *PITTSFIELD MOVES!*

July 12, 2018– (Becket, MA) Berkshire community members come together to present a collaborative performance created as part of the year-long engagement project, *Pittsfield Moves!* Shepherded by the New York City-based collaborative performance company Angela's Pulse, this work illuminates marginalized narratives, breaks down regional silos, and deepens connections through creative practice. Developed through community residencies in July, the work will be performed as part of the Inside/Out Performance Series at Jacob's Pillow on July 26, and at the Berkshire NAACP's 45th annual Gather-In on July 28 in Pittsfield's Durant Park.

Pittsfield Moves! was conceived by Jacob's Pillow in collaboration with lead partner The Berkshire Bridges – Working Cities Pittsfield Initiative to help local stakeholders within educational, social, and economic justice organizations develop a practice of storytelling and relationship building through movement. This work was commissioned by Jacob's Pillow, in partnership with the Working Cities Initiative, and made possible by funding from the Ford Foundation.

Participants will include community members connected to each partner organization, as well as a community ensemble of up to 30 people. Berkshire County partner organizations include Working Cities, Youth Alive!, NAACP Berkshire County Branch, Manos Unidas Multicultural Education Cooperative, Railroad Street Youth Project, Berkshire Children & Families, and Transformative Development Initiative, among others.

Pittsfield Moves! launched in fall 2017 with an initial introductory visit by choreographer Paloma McGregor (Director of Angela's Pulse) and MK Abadoo, an Angela's Pulse lead facilitator. Following that visit, Angela's Pulse's team of artist-organizers—MK Abadoo, Matthew Dicken, Paloma McGregor, and Rosa Navarrete—spent the first half of 2018 on a *Listening and Learning* tour of Pittsfield and surrounding communities. Beyond July, outgrowths of this work will be woven into locally generated events, seeding possibilities for future visioning and organizing.

The creative and organizing practices of Angela's Pulse are rooted in the following core values: We are process-oriented; collaboration based; community centered; anti-racist; and embodied. These values and practices are informed by a deep engagement with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond's

principles of Undoing Racism & Community Organizing and Urban Bush Women's Entering, Building, and Exiting Community framework.

About Working Cities

The Berkshire Bridges – Working Cities Pittsfield Initiative is designed to support the journey from poverty to sustainability by collaboratively building community resources and removing barriers. Their goal is to improve individual, institutional, and social fairness and respect in the community, and thus to support individuals moving out of poverty.

About Angela's Pulse

Angela's Pulse creates and produces collaborative performance work dedicated to building community and illuminating bold, new stories. Their mission is to provide a home for interdisciplinary collaborations that thrive on both politics and play, and they are committed to developing timely performance works that provoke, inform, and inspire. Co-founded by Paloma and Patricia McGregor, Angela's Pulse was named for their mother Angela, an artist, teacher, and activist who continues to inspire their work.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE & COMMUNITY RESIDENCY INFORMATION:

The Pittsfield Moves! facilitators from Angela's Pulse will be hosting community residences in the Berkshires, July 17-29. Additional workshops and dates to be announced.

Thursday, July 19

Third Thursday at 6:30pm

The Dance Zone on North Street, Pittsfield, MA

Jacob's Pillow and Angela's Pulse will present Paloma McGregor's ensemble dance work *Building a Better Fishtrap/Part 1*, part of an ongoing performance project that explores the questions: What do we take with us, leave behind, and return to reclaim?

Thursday, July 26

Inside/Out Performance Series at Jacob's Pillow at 6:15pm

358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA

Berkshire community members come together to present a collaborative performance created with Angela's Pulse through *Pittsfield Moves!*

Saturday, July 28

Berkshire NAACP's 45th annual Gather-In at 4:30pm

Durant Park, Pittsfield, MA

This event hosts performances from 1-6pm. Berkshire community members come together to present a collaborative performance created with Angela's Pulse through *Pittsfield Moves!*

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, 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.

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