

## **CALL FOR INDIGENOUS ARTISTS + DESIGNERS**

Jacob's Pillow is seeking Indigenous artists based in Turtle Island to collaborate on specific project areas as part of their creation of a [Reimagined Doris Duke Theatre](#) on its campus in what is now known as Becket, Massachusetts. The original Doris Duke Theatre was destroyed by fire in November of 2020 and Jacob's Pillow is now building a reimagined theater working with Mecanoo Architects, Marvel Designs, Charcoalblue, and Jeffrey Gibson. Engagement with Indigenous people is an important part of our efforts to decolonize our organization and to connect with the [land on which we dance](#).

It is with gratitude and humility that Jacob's Pillow acknowledges that we are learning, speaking, and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok or Mohican people, who are the Indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today they reside in Wisconsin and are known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors and elders past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

As a cultural home serving the area now known as the Berkshires, we also pay our respects to the Indigenous people who continue to live in this region and exercise sovereignty: the Nipmuc to the East; the Wampanoag and Narragansett to the Southeast; the Agawam, Mohegan, Pequot, and Schaghticoke to the South; and the Abenaki to the North.

We believe it is the role of the arts to make the invisible visible. After centuries of erasure, we the stewards of Jacob's Pillow hold the responsibility to recognize the Indigenous peoples and the land that gives Jacob's Pillow its quintessential identity. As allies, this acknowledgement is only part of our commitment to building relationships with Indigenous artists from around the country and the world and communities who still reside in our region.

## Open Call

Working with the collaborative design team and Jacob's Pillow program staff, selected artists will act as consultants for the development and creation of the following three areas:

- Medicinal Garden – The garden is part of the user's entry experience to the reimagined Doris Duke Theatre as you approach the building from the east. The area welcomes proposals that take into consideration planting design, maintenance, and user experience.
  - *Fees associated with this work will be determined in consultation with each artist. Design fee will be in an estimated range of \$12,000-\$15,000. Travel, accommodation, and per diem specific to research visit, installation and opening celebration will be covered by the Pillow.*
- Fire Pit – An area for gatherings and celebrations centered around fire, located on the east of the building adjacent to the medicinal garden. The area welcomes proposals that take into consideration utilization of materials local to the site, seating, tables and a central area for fire.
  - *Fees associated with this work will be determined in consultation with each artist. Design fee will be in an estimated range of \$12,000-\$15,000. Travel, accommodation, and per diem specific to research visit, installation and opening celebration will be covered by the Pillow.*
- Commissioned work of Visual Art – An artwork which seeks to bring a contemporary Indigenous voice to the entrance lobby, as installed or affixed to a wall. The area welcomes proposals that take into consideration the importance of Indigenous artists and community members.
  - *Fees associated with this work will be determined in consultation with each artist. A commission, estimated at \$15,000-20,000, will be given for the design, creation and transportation of the artwork, with an additional fee, estimated at \$1,000-2,000, specific to the loan and presentation of the artwork for 1-2 years. Following the loan period, the artwork will be returned to the artist. Travel, accommodation, and per diem specific to the installation and opening celebration will be covered by the Pillow.*

## **Timeline**

The application period will take approximately two months, as outlined below.

- Applications Open: November 1, 2023
- Application Webinar: November 15, 2023
  - This online webinar, offered via Zoom, will review the application process and provide contextual information about the reimagined Doris Duke Theatre. Participants will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the process and project. This session will be recorded and made available afterwards.
- Application Submission Deadline Extended: December 4, 2023 at 5pm EST.
- Finalist Interviews: December 1-15, 2023
- Final Decisions Made: January, 2024

The project will evolve over the next two years, beginning with a planning and design process and continuing through to construction. Exact timing will be determined in consultation with each artist/designer. Activity to be scheduled together include:

- Project Meetings and Integration with Design Team
- Site-Visit at Jacob's Pillow
- Design Submission and Review
- Construction and Implementation
- Opening Celebration

### **About A Reimagined Doris Duke Theatre:**

Two years ago, the Jacob's Pillow community suffered the tragic loss of the Doris Duke Theatre to a fire. In the intervening years the Pillow has worked to identify and begin working with a collaborative design team to create a new theater, anticipated to be completed in 2025. This space will maintain the former Doris Duke Theatre's essence as a flexible and intimate space for both the creation and presentation of new and experimental works providing artists access to the state-of-the-art technology to create 21st-century works.

Netherlands-based architecture firm Mecanoo, led by their renowned Creative Director and Founding Partner Francine Houben, is serving as the lead architect for the new building project, in partnership with New York-based architecture firm Marvel as the U.S.-based architect of record and landscape architect. Theater, acoustic, and experience consultants Charcoalblue are supporting the project.

As part of the search for a collaborative design team, we asked each applicant to include an Indigenous artist as part of their team to ensure that Indigenous voices and considerations were included throughout the design process. We did not require that design teams choose a Stockbridge-Munsee artist; rather they were encouraged to select an artist whose work they were drawn to and wanted to work with for an extended period of time. Mecanoo partnered with Jeffrey Gibson, Choctaw/Cherokee, who attends design meetings, offers feedback, and partners with Jacob's Pillow to bring other Indigenous artists and community members into feedback conversations as the design develops.

The reimagined Doris Duke Theatre will support Festival Performances and provide year-round studio space on the Pillow campus for Pillow Lab Residencies, the creation of new work for both the physical and digital space, community events, staff meetings, rentals, and convenings for decades to come. It will be an environmentally sustainable, 21st-century cultural facility that will remain relevant for future generations, able to honor the Pillow's reputation as a stunning site for performances while creating a new landmark on the campus that upholds and celebrates the site's diverse history and responds to the values of the Pillow's Indigenous peoples on whose land the Pillow rests. In addition to supporting a world-renowned cultural program, the new building will afford opportunities for education about the earth and land, social diversity, and the meaning and functions of culture in America well into the Pillow's second century. The new theater will foreground accessibility and embrace care-centered design to ensure the building will better support staff, artists, and audiences.

### **About Jacob's Pillow:**

Jacob's Pillow is a treasured 220-acre National Historic Landmark, a recipient of the prestigious National Medal of Arts, and home to America's longest-running international dance festival. Lauded worldwide as a "hub and mecca of dancing" (TIME Magazine), the Pillow's mission is to support dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation; and to engage and deepen public appreciation and support for dance. Organization-wide values include inclusion,

leadership, integrity, flexibility, partnership, and sustainability. Learn more about Jacob's Pillow, its mission statement, and its values [here](#).

### **Application & Eligibility:**

Applicants must be Indigenous artists or designers based in Turtle Island. Applicants should be enrolled citizens of a federally recognized tribe, as noted by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. We require applicants to verify descendent status in the event of not being an enrolled citizen. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to apply for this opportunity.

Jacob's Pillow is a registered 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that provides equal opportunity for all applicants for contract-work without regard to race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, military or veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law.

Jacob's Pillow is committed to providing an inclusive, diverse, accessible, and equitable environment that cultivates the celebration of the art of dance and its positive impact on communities.

The Pillow will prioritize applicants who are enrolled members of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community in recognition of the theatre's placement on their ancestral homelands.

For questions or additional support please contact New Theatre Project Manager Katy Dammers via email at [kdammers@jacobspillow.org](mailto:kdammers@jacobspillow.org)

### **Jury Adjudication**

Landscape applications (medicinal garden and firepit) will be reviewed by the collaborative design team and Jacob's Pillow, consisting of:

- Pamela Tatge, Executive & Artistic Director of Jacob's Pillow
- Francine Houben, Design Principle at Mecanoo

- Yadiel Rivera-Díaz, Partner at Marvel
- Tess Lukey (Aquinnah Wampanoag), Associate Curator of Native American Art at The Trustees of Reservations
- Shawn Stevens (Stockbridge-Munsee), Spiritualist, musician, artist, historian, and sharer of knowledge

Visual art applications will be reviewed by the collaborative design team, Jacob's Pillow, and an artistic jury consisting of:

- Pamela Tatge, Executive & Artistic Director of Jacob's Pillow
- Francine Houben, Design Principle at Mecanoo
- Jeffrey Gibson (Cherokee, Choctaw), Artist and Consultant for Jacob's Pillow
- Tess Luckey (Aquinnah Wampanoag), Associate Curator of Native American Art at The Trustees of Reservations
- Shawn Stevens (Stockbridge-Munsee), Spiritualist, musician, artist, historian, and sharer of knowledge

### **Criterion for Success**

- Resonance - Proposal is in dialogue with the design of the reimagined Doris Duke Theatre. More broadly, the artist demonstrates sensitivity to the history of the land, its contemporary context as an international dance festival, and its connection with future generations.

- Cultural Integrity - Proposal demonstrates thoughtful and ethical use of material with specific cultural origins and context. More broadly, the artist situates their practice within an intersectional understanding of identity.
- Vision - Proposal presents strong, compelling ideas with clear articulation of artistic thinking and social purpose. More broadly, the artistic ideas present a unique and well-developed approach, craft, and content.
- Experience - Proposal suggests impactful interactions with visitors, sustaining engagement and interaction with the site. More broadly, the artist takes into account the sensory, emotional, and intellectual experience of the visitor.
- Environmental Responsibility - Proposal affirms respect for the natural environment and a commitment to sustainable and regenerative practices. More broadly, the artist employs resourceful, ethical, and considerate practices.
- Collaboration - Proposal is in complimentary dialogue with the existing architectural and landscape design. More broadly, the artist demonstrates commitment to working with the design and Jacob's Pillow team, open communication, and complex reasoning.
- Creative Problem Solving - Proposal responds to the specific brief, providing practical and creative approaches to logistical realities including constructability, health & safety, accessibility, and budget. More broadly, the artist demonstrates an agile approach to project development that embraces innovative solutions.

## **APPLICATION**

*Applications will be accepted online via the Google Form link on the Jacob's Pillow website. Applicants are encouraged to prepare their answers in advance, and then take time to input content into the form, as material cannot be saved in-process. A digest of the questions is included below for reference:*

Demographics:

To help us measure how we are doing at increasing diversity and outreach, in the following screens we will ask you to provide us with information about your race and gender. Any answers you give will be kept private and will not be used against you in any way. You are not required to disclose any of this information and completion of the questionnaires is entirely voluntary.

Once you have completed this process, you will be directed to the application.

1. What is your gender identity?
  - a. Woman
  - b. Man
  - c. Genderqueer or non-binary
  - d. Agender
  - e. None of the above, please specify
  
2. What is your racial or ethnic identity?
  - a. African-American/Black
  - b. American Indian/Alaska Native
  - c. East Asian
  - d. Hispanic/Latinx
  - e. Middle Eastern
  - f. Pacific Islander
  - g. South Asian
  - h. Southeast Asian
  - i. White
  - j. None of the above, please specify
  
3. What is your age?
  - a. 18 to 24
  - b. 25 to 34
  - c. 35 to 44
  - d. 45 to 54
  - e. 55 to 64
  - f. 65 to 74
  - g. 75 or older
  
4. What is your sexual orientation?
  - a. Asexual
  - b. Bisexual
  - c. Gay
  - d. Heterosexual or straight
  - e. Lesbian



- f. Pansexual
  - g. Queer
  - h. None of the above, please specify
5. Do you identify as transgender (or another non-cisgender identity)?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
6. What is your current socioeconomic status?
- a. Poverty (earning \$12,500 or less)
  - b. Working Poor (earning up to \$25K)
  - c. Working Class (earning \$25K-\$42K)
  - d. Emerging Middle Class (earning \$42-\$74K)
  - e. Middle Class (earning \$75K-\$95K)
  - f. Upper Middle Class (earning \$76-\$125K)
  - g. Affluent/Owning Class (earning \$126K and above)
  - h. Student
  - i. Don't Know
  - j. Other (please specify)
7. Do you identify as an individual with a disability including physical, neurological, cognitive/learning, sensory, and psychological disability, including those that are visible, invisible, temporary, long-term or chronic?

About You:

1. Applicant Name:
2. Are you an enrolled citizen of a federally or state-recognized Tribal Nation? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_
3. What Tribal Nation, Reserve, or Native Village are you enrolled in?
4. If not enrolled, from what Tribal Community do you claim descendency?
5. Email Address:
6. Mailing Address:
7. Preferred Pronouns:
8. Do you have access needs for your participation in the open call adjudication? If so, how might the Pillow best support them?

Introducing Yourself:

1. Applicant Narrative Biography: Please tell us about yourself. This answer can include your background, training, mentorship and education, your family, and your biography. (300 words or 4 minutes of audio or video)

2. Describe your practice: Please describe your practice. This answer can include the work that you do and the content or ideas you explore. (300 words or 4 minutes of audio or video)
3. CV Submission (optional)

Open Call Response:

4. Which Open Call are you applying for?
  - a. Medicinal Garden
  - b. Fire Pit
  - c. Commissioned work of Art
  - d. *\*If you are applying for more than one please select all that apply. The following questions should be answered specific to each open call opportunity.*
5. Why are you applying for this opportunity?: Please describe what excites you about this specific open call and working with Jacob's Pillow in particular. (500 words or 6 minutes of audio or video)
6. What is your working process and approach to collaboration?: Please share some examples of past projects and your experience working with others. (500 words or 6 minutes of audio or video)
7. Work Samples
  - a. Submit a portfolio of work samples, which can be a combination of the following:
    - i. Photographs: Up to 5 still images, saved as a PDF and uploaded here:
    - ii. Web Links: Up to 5 links, included here:
    - iii. Videos: Up to 5 links, with a combined total of no more than 15 minutes of material, and included here as links:
      1. Please be sure to include any passwords as needed.
    - iv. Written Material: Up to 5 pages of material, saved as a PDF and uploaded here:
  - b. How do your work samples relate to your approach to the open call? (300 words)

References:

1. Please provide us with 2 references who can speak to your previous work, experience, and collaborations.
  - a. Referee Name:
  - b. Referee Contact: (can be an email address or phone number)
  - c. Referee Relationship: (Describe in one or two sentences your relationship to this individual and why you have selected them as a reference).

Work Requirements:

1. This project will require one or more in-person visit(s) to review the intended site and meet the Jacob's Pillow and design team.

2. COVID-19 vaccination, including two booster shots, is required as a condition of artists traveling to Jacob's Pillow. As of April 1, 2022, Jacob's Pillow considers a person to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 more than 2 weeks after having received a second booster shot, following a 2-dose series of a vaccine accepted by the World Health Organization. Please visit [jacobspillow.org/health](https://jacobspillow.org/health) for more details on vaccines and our COVID policies for artists, subject to change as local laws and regulations change or best practices recommended by the CDC.
3. Terms and Conditions
  - a. You certify that all items asked for have been completed and items have been uploaded and labeled as indicated.
  - b. You allow Jacob's Pillow to add your email address to the Jacob's Pillow mailing list so that you may receive updates of upcoming events and application opportunities.

Jacob's Pillow will then be in touch with successful applicants to schedule finalist interviews.

For questions or additional support please contact New Theatre Project Manager Katy Dammers via email at [kdammers@jacobspillow.org](mailto:kdammers@jacobspillow.org)