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EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES AMERICAN DANCE INSTITUTE BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

American Dance Institute To Relocate From Washington, DC to Catskill, NY

Empire State Development today announced the American Dance Institute (ADI) broke ground in Catskill to relocate its headquarters from Maryland to New York State. The \$3.75 million project will renovate a former lumberyard to create the first facility in the U.S. dedicated to providing theater space for professional contemporary dance and performance artists to make new work premiere-ready. The new facility, ADI/Lumberyard, will also host public performances beginning in 2018.

“We are proud to welcome the American Dance Institute to New York State,” **said ESD President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky.** “The new headquarters will support performance artists in Upstate New York, adding yet another gem to the growing number of arts and culture assets found throughout the region.”

The American Dance Institute (ADI) will relocate its headquarters to a former lumberyard in Greene County, New York to become ADI/Lumberyard. Construction began today to renovate a 30,000 square-foot building to house a large, flexible theater, public space and artist housing. ADI was awarded a \$500,000 grant through Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council initiative in Round V to support construction, renovations and equipment needed to complete the project. ADI has made a commitment to create 10 full-time jobs and up to 20 part-time or seasonal jobs.

“ADI is grateful for the support from Governor Cuomo’s REDC initiative and Empire State Development,” **said American Dance Institute Executive Director Adrienne Willis.** “We are excited to get the project underway and look forward to opening ADI/Lumberyard in Catskill, New York in spring 2018.”

In Catskill, ADI/Lumberyard will be the first facility in the nation designed to provide professional dance and performance artists, and their collaborators, time in a theater to integrate design elements into new work in advance of a premiere. The production residencies help strengthen the American contemporary field by presenting more polished work to audiences before it is presented in New York and other states.

Senator George Amedore said, “The American Dance Institute will be a great addition to Catskill's vibrant arts culture and will help in continued efforts to revitalize the downtown community. The Institute will attract renowned artists from all over the state and nation, and I'm so glad they recognized everything this area has to offer and made the decision to locate here. Their presence will be an economic driver for the entire region and I wish them much success.”

“I am excited to welcome the American Dance Institute to Catskill as a new, contributing member of our community,” **said Assemblyman Pete Lopez.** “Projects like this demonstrate how we can successfully promote the arts while simultaneously strengthening tourism and economic development in our region. I am pleased to have helped support state funding for this undertaking through the New York State Regional Economic Development Council program. I look forward to advancing additional worthy projects like this.”

“The American Dance Institute is a welcome addition to Greene County's performing arts sector. As a major anchor institution it will bring additional investment, jobs, and visitors and add to the creative economy taking place in our downtowns,” **said Chairman of the Greene County Legislature Kevin Lewis.** “ADI has recognized the supportive environment and opportunities in Greene County and we look forward to collaborating with ADI on their business ventures.”

Town of Catskill Supervisor Doreen Davis said, “We are thrilled with the innovative 'repurposing' of the lumber yard undertaken by ADI. The opportunity to experience such a high caliber of dance in our own town is yet another sign that Catskill is 'on the move'.”

Catskill Village President Heather Bagshaw said, “The Village of Catskill is excited that the American Dance Institute has chosen Catskill as its new home. ADI will enhance the economic growth of the village with their arrival and attract new businesses that will complement their clientele needs.”

Founded as a dance school in 1999, ADI began presenting professional contemporary dance in 2010. ADI quickly earned a national reputation for its programs that support artists to create new work and audiences for the art form. ADI supports the creation of approximately 15 new contemporary dance and performance works every year, and according to the 2012 National Arts & Economic Prosperity IV Study, contributes nearly \$600,000 in direct spending to the local economy.

About ADI/Lumberyard:

In 2018, American Dance Institute will open a new performing arts center in Catskill, NY specifically created to support the development and presentation of contemporary dance and performance work. ADI/Lumberyard will house a 5,000 square foot flexible theater space and artist housing. When open, ADI/Lumberyard will host summer/fall seasons that will bring renowned artists to Catskill for performances and world premieres. Further renovations to ADI's

waterfront properties will create vibrant community spaces and, in the words of New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, will be, “a transformative project for the Village” and “a major catalyst to bring back the downtown community.”

About Empire State Development

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York’s chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of “I Love NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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