FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2016

AMERICAN DANCE ABROAD AWARDED $250,000 BY THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

(New York, NY, October 14, 2016) American Dance Abroad is honored to be a recipient of an Arts and Cultural Heritage grant by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The $250,000 award will be utilized to expand American Dance Recon (ADR), a signature program of American Dance Abroad, over a three-year period.

ADR has proven to be a powerful tool in educating international programmers about the wealth of high quality dance being made in the U.S. This five-day, intensive symposium brings programmers from around the world to a U.S. city with a vibrant dance scene. Editions have been held annually in New York City since 2012 and in San Francisco in 2013. Programmers engage with the local community by attending performances and rehearsals, participating in focus groups and discussions, and conversing with local dance leaders. According to ADR participant Angela Conquet, Artistic Director and CEO of Dancehouse (Australia):

"I now have a much more thorough understanding of how dance works in the U.S. and a clearer perception of influences and lineages. Your very diverse program allowed me… to see some really amazing work and to discover some interesting artists I will definitely start a conversation with."

Introductions made at ADR have sparked numerous international opportunities for participating U.S. artists.

American Dance Abroad will use The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s investment to introduce American Dance Recon in six strategically chosen locations over three years, with fall and spring/summer editions each year. It will enable American Dance Abroad to link ADR to several important dance events and major summer dance festivals in
cities that foster strong dance communities, such as Chicago, Seattle, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles.

Mellon’s investment will also enable American Dance Abroad to support U.S. artists who receive invitations for creative residencies as a result of connections made during the American Dance Recon symposium. Residencies encourage choreographers to develop deeper relationships in specific regions by embedding them in a dance center, choreographic center, or artist community. While onsite, the choreographers will be provided a studio and other resources to begin new work and be introduced to local choreographers and programmers.

Activating ADR in cities around the United States will have a resounding impact on the reputation of American dance overseas. Enabling international programmers to see work live and facilitating choreographers and companies to engage directly with international colleagues can effectively reintroduce U.S. dance to areas of the world where it has been forgotten.

Through ADR and the creative residencies that result, American Dance Abroad will ensure that U.S. dance contributes to the diversity of dance on a global level, and to preserve and propel our American dance heritage.

**About American Dance Abroad**
American Dance Abroad is a national organization that seeks equitable cultural engagement among American dance artists and companies and their international counterparts. It facilitates introductions and creates opportunities for artistic discovery and dialogue. It was created as a tactical response to the decline of American dance in the global marketplace as put forth in *Dance America: An International Strategy for American Dance*, co-authored by Carolelinda Dickey and Andrea Snyder in 2009.

**About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**
The Foundation endeavors to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies. To this end, they support exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work.

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