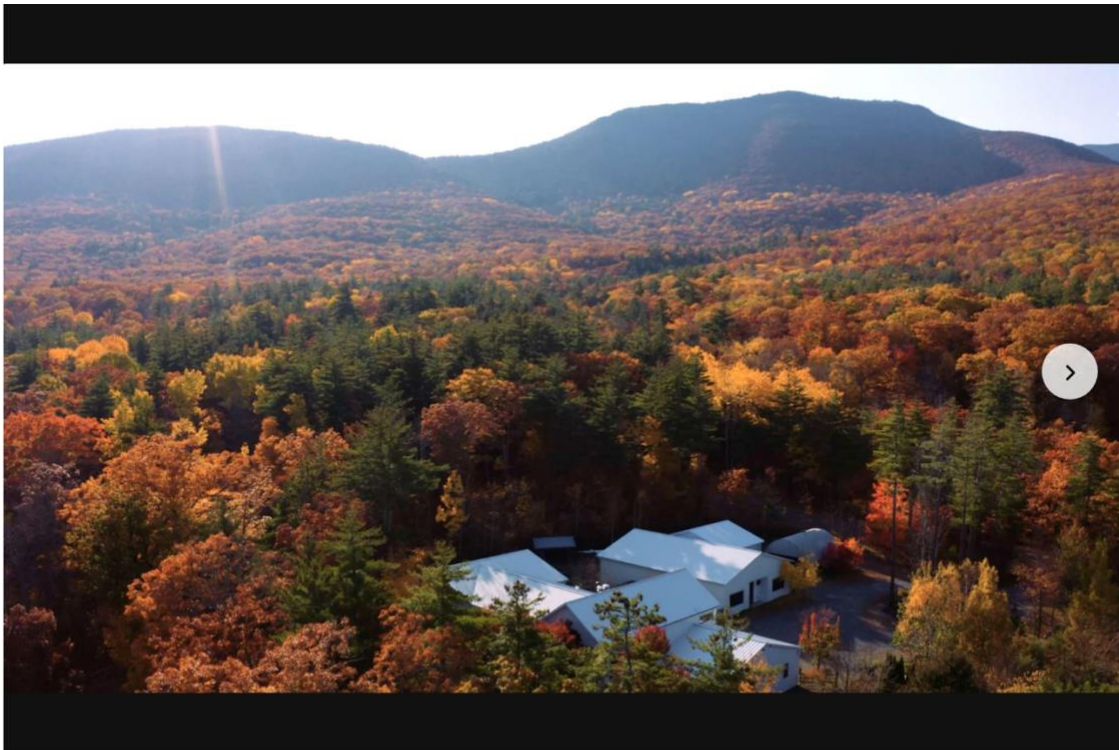


BUSINESS

Petronio Dance Company given \$500K grant to preserve natural land

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The Petronio Residency Center in Round Top was awarded a \$500,000 grant to preserve 77 acres of natural land around it and spearhead environmental programming at the intersection of its dance.

ROUND TOP – The Stephen Petronio Company was awarded a \$500,000 grant to conserve a 77-acre lot surrounding its residency center as forever wild open space.

The space was dubbed the “Doris Duke Preserve at Round Top, Greene County” after the foundation that provided the grant to sustain its lush greenery and rich biodiversity.

Stephen Petronio, the non-profit dance company’s founder said the grant money helped his organization buy the land as it embarks on an environmental mission. The company hopes to kick off environmental programming to raise awareness about stewardship.

The land will not be open to the public, only to residency guests and people on the site. He said closing it off will “keep the land safe from any kind of harm.”



"I'm really hoping that we can help to bring awareness to how important that Catskill preserve is and how we could expand it by putting our private land into a reserve and (to) keep it natural forest so that we can continue to have air to breathe," the career choreographer and dancer emphasized.

"We see PRC as both an opportunity and a responsibility, to artists and the natural world, and are so excited by all that we will be able to continue to do thanks to this incredible funding," he added.

Petronio and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) established the land's ongoing preservation through a permanent land conservation easement with the Greene Land Trust, according to a press release.

"The most distinctive characteristic of an easement as a conservation tool is that it enables specific conservation goals on the land while keeping ownership and management with the existing landowners and allowing for uses harmonious with conservation objectives," the release said.

This arrangement makes it so the land will never be on the commercial market and always protected, regardless of what happens to the Petronio Company ownership.

"The Petronio Residency Center sets the standard for providing a vital service to choreographers in an extraordinary setting, and the Hudson Valley sets the standard for America's rich natural landscapes," Sam Gill, President and Chief Executive Officer of DDCF said in the release. "Supporting these two treasures simultaneously is an incredible testament to Doris Duke's name and legacy."