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AMERICA WALKS

Making America a Great Place to Walk

January 2017

Supporting Walkable Communities Across the US

After reviewing over 800 applications, America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative are excited to share the communities we will work with as part of our Micro Grant program. The micro grant program provides funds that support grassroots efforts aimed at getting communities walking and creating more safe, accessible and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active. With support from partners, including WalkBoston, American College of Sports Medicine and The TransitCenter, 22 projects will be supported in 2017. [Learn more about the communities here.](#)



[Donate Today to Help Us Support Walkable Communities in 2017!](#)

Meet Wendy Landman, America Walks Board Member

Over the next several months, we'll be rolling out a series of Q&As and video interviews with members of the America Walks Board. We're thrilled by the depth and breadth of experience that makes up our board of directors and hope you'll enjoy learning a bit more about these thoughtful, insightful walking advocates. **We're kicking off with Wendy Landman, Executive Director of WalkBoston.** Learn why she has made a commitment to all things walking, what she thinks you

can do to join the efforts to create walkable communities and her dream plans for Oprah Winfrey.



America Walks' Walking College is Back

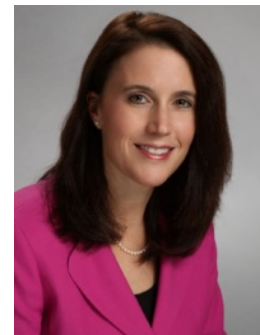
Over the past two years, 47 advocates for walking and walkable communities have completed [our Walking College program](#), a 6-month distance education training, which includes live, video-interactive discussion sessions with experienced mentors, development of a locally-focused Walking Action Plan, and participation in a national conference. We're kicking things off earlier this year and applications will open on February 1, 2017. Learn more about the program in a recently released [report](#) which explains how it is helping to support and grow the national walking movement. Be sure to [register for the informational webinar](#).

Kudos to Columbia, MO, one of the Newest Vision Zero Cities

Columbia, MO in December became the 22nd city in the U.S. to adopt a **Vision Zero** policy, which establishes a goal of zero traffic fatalities by 2030 and emphasizes safety for all road users, including the most vulnerable among them: namely, people on foot and bike. In Columbia, the City Council directed its city manager to develop an implementation plan that must be presented to the Council by the end of April that includes a funding strategy, said Ian Thomas, America Walks State and Local Program Director and a member of the Columbia City Council. Read more on their efforts [here](#). To learn how to bring Vision Zero to your community, [check out the resources here](#).

America Walks Hires New Fund Development Director

Our team is growing! Jean Brannan has joined America Walks as fund development director. Jean has served in the nonprofit sector since 2009. Before joining America Walks, Jean worked as the principal fundraising officer for local and statewide nonprofit organizations, including the Harford Community Action Agency, Preservation Pennsylvania, and the York County Heritage Trust. She served as the chief development professional in each of these roles. [Learn more about Jean here](#).



Mark Your Calendars!

- **February 1:** Special Briefing on National Quality Forum's the Action Guide. [Learn more and register here](#).

- **February 2: Boost Your State Legislative Advocacy Game: Creative Approaches to Winning Active Transportation Policy** Webinar
- **February 2-4: New Partners for Smart Growth Conference**, St. Louis
- **February 8:** Path to a Walkable Future Webinar. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **February 10:** Abstract submission deadline for **Walk21 Calgary**. Read the call for proposals [here](#).
- **February 26: Active Living Research Conference**, Clearwater Beach, Florida

Walk This Way

Our partner **WalkBoston** worked with **Walk Fall River in 2016** to install over 100 wayfinding signs like this one at entrances to the newly-opened **Quequechan River Rail Trail in Fall River, MA**. The signs are installed in the neighborhoods surrounding the trail, enhancing awareness of and access to this tremendous walking and bicycling amenity.



Photo courtesy WalkBoston

What We're Reading

- **[Dangerous by Design 2016](#)**, Smart Growth America's latest look at the epidemic of people killed by cars while walking in the U.S. This report looks at metro areas most dangerous for people walking, includes a breakdown of risk by race and income, and for the first time ranks states by their danger to pedestrians.
- **[Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity](#)**, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report that identifies opportunities for advancing health equity and outlines specific steps in the realms of transportation and other sectors.
- **[The Curb Cut Effect](#)**, explores how curb cuts and other examples of responding to the needs of specific disadvantaged groups can improve quality of life for all.

Help Make Every Community a Walkable Community

Our Sponsors

America Walks thanks our sponsors for their generous support of this publication and all of the work being done by America Walks to promote the walkable movement. Thanks for helping to make America a great place to walk!

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Have an item for our newsletter or a question for our team? Contact America Walks

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