Our New Year’s Pledge to You

As we walk briskly into 2019, we’re getting reflective and introspective. This year, we witnessed powerful strides forward in the walking movement and were reminded that our work is far from over. One realization that we keep returning to – it’s the seemingly little steps that are creating some of the greatest change. Like the steps our 2018 Walking College Graduates took to receive their (virtual) diplomas, or the steps that dozens of kids took to school this year on the Salvation Army Kroc Center’s Walking Bus.

Looking back on these steps has inspired us as we look ahead to 2019 with a bit of a New Year’s pledge to you:

- **Informed people are empowered people.** We’ll be working diligently to engage you in the most pertinent walking advocacy knowledge and emerging issues in 2019.

- **People are dying in our streets.** And we know this is occurring at devastatingly disproportionate rates among people of color and in low-income communities. We’ll continue to be a voice for safety and the fact that even one life lost is too many.

- **We’re stronger together.** We’ll continue to expand our network and yours inform decision-makers of the critical need for walking and walkable communities, and find new allies for the walking movement.

- **Be inspired.** We’re continuously inspired by the work being done at the local, state, and national level to create walkable communities and we’ll share these models, data, and inspirations with you through messaging, information sharing and resources to implement change.

These are just a few of our promises on the table for the coming year. We are so excited to bring new things to you in 2019.

Help Us Actualize Our Vision in 2019

Earth Notes Features America Walks

Ever wondered how it all came to be? How did we become the
only national organization devoted solely to walking? Check out this charming short story of how America Walks originally convened. And give a listen for how we’re working towards fostering change in small, vulnerable communities to help uphold the meaning of place and traditional knowledge any chance we get.

Jeff Speck Gives Us His Word

On the blog this month, we featured the profound exploration of how Jeff Speck came to embrace deep walkability. A graceful tale of how his once semi-pretentious acquaintance – walkability – unwittingly became his best friend in standing for something.

Speck unravels the ways walkability won him over as an ultimate tool in the mandate to create not only safe walking places, but spaces that are useful, comfortable and interesting too. You will not regret this read.

Start Thinking About Going Back to School

One of the things we’re most excited about for 2019 is convening another class of Walking College Fellows. Over the last four years, almost 100 local advocates and professionals in various fields have completed the 6-month Walking College curriculum and developed their own Walking Action Plans, many of which have led to new programs and policies in their communities. The online application process will be open from February 1st – 28th, 2019 and you can learn more about the Walking College here.

America Walks Attends Release of NADTC Transportation Survey

America Walks attended the release of a national poll done by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center on December 7, 2018. The poll finds that older adults and people with disabilities are facing significant transportation challenges. This is a critical component in the accessibility, engagement, and health of that population. Accessible transit and walkable communities is a solution we believe should be strongly considered to addressing these challenges. Visit NADTC’s website to learn more about the poll and its new Every Ride Counts campaign.

Mark Those Calendars

- **January 9th**: Ring in the new year with our first webinar of 2019. Register for, Let’s Get Moving: The Power of Physical Activity. We’ll explore the new HHS Physical Activity (PA) Guidelines and how communities are getting creative to promote PA.
- **January 10th**: Deadline to submit a proposal to present at the APBP 2019 Conference in Portland, OR.
January 25th: Deadline to apply for Road to Zero’s 2019 Safe System Innovation Grants. A great opportunity for organizations with innovative approaches to making roadways safer and eliminating preventable roadway deaths.

Content We Loved This Month

- The Pedestrian Strikes Back / The New York Times
- 18 enticing new books on design, cities / Curbed
- I’m on the Verge of Breaking-up With San Antonio / Every Body Walk!

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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