As our Walking College Fellows approach their last leg of the curriculum and work on their Walking Action Plans, many are also brainstorming and articulating the ways that health justice will inform their work – as they take on real community change in their neighborhoods.

We’re grateful to be having intimate Walking College social hour meetings lately with past and current fellows and mentors, to converse about these and other topics. To say we are honored and energized by our Walking College family is an understatement.

Not everyone has ease of access to nature or safe environments to walk and it is our duty as change agents to not only address the symptoms of inequity but to remove the root causes.

The social environment that racist and unjust policies have created also impacts walkability. As walkable community advocates, we must also advocate for dismantling the presence and impact of systemic racism.

How can we think beyond the built environment when pondering about improving walkability in communities of color? 2020 Walking College Fellow, Lee Scottlorde, shares her thoughts on the intersections of walkability and health justice in her blog, Walkability is a Health Justice Issue in Philadelphia.
The Americans with Disabilities Act Turns 30-Years-Old

30 years ago on Sunday, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, giving people of all abilities greater opportunity and access to public spaces and places – a milestone to be celebrated. But, to echo advocates from the disability community, the ADA is not some magic wand that removes the ample attitudes and systems of ableism that permeate how individuals of varying physical and intellectual abilities move through the public sphere, and how we design the built environment.

Here is a small sampling of pieces to inspire your inclusive advocacy work, in light of #ADA30:

- COVID Times and ADA / Amelia O'Hare / NCHPAD
- How the ADA Changed the Built World – Crip Camp / Netflix Film Club
- Walking Towards Justice: Connecting and Allying with the Disability Rights Movement / America Walks
- ADA 30 – No Justice for Disabled Native People / Jen Deerinwater / Disability Visibility Project
- How I Walk – A Campaign to Rebrand the Word Walking / NCHPAD
- Walking Towards Justice: Addressing Ableism in Your Built Environment / America Walks

There were also invaluable discussions and threads on social media this weekend. Check out the hashtags #ADA30InColor, #CripTheVote, #DisabilityTooWhite and #ADA30 to continue unlearning ableism while adopting an intersectional ADA approach.

REGISTER NOW – Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America’s Black Cities – a Conversation with Author Andre Perry

REGISTER NOW – Walking Towards Justice in Indian Country: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Webinar
Walking Towards Justice in Indian Country: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Register For The Webinar

America Walks Welcomes New Executive Director Mike McGinn

In this PED Talks episode, America Walks' Ian Thomas interviews Destiny Thomas about her work on dignity-infused community engagement, thrivance (helping people heal
Destiny Thomas is a cultural anthropologist from Oakland, CA and the founder and CEO of the Thrivance Group. Destiny takes a holistic approach to planning, transportation system design, environmental justice, and public health, centering the human element and lived experiences via her “dignity-infused community engagement” methodology.

Community Change Grant Update from Shinnecock Indian Nation

America Walks Community Change Grants support local efforts to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and move for all community members.

Lauryn Randall, the Transportation Coordinator with the Shinnecock Indian Nation on Long Island, NY, shared an update on the community-led project to install signage, crosswalks, road shoulder improvements, a speed bump and a stop sign at a dangerous crossing in the tribal community.

Mark Those Calendars:

August 4th–6th 2020 – Register now for the Walk/Bike/Places conference, a virtual convening for walking, bicycling, and placemaking professionals. We’ll be helping to host a virtual walk at the conference!


Content of the Month:

- People are more likely to live to 100 if they live in walkable neighborhoods where they don’t need cars or public transport to get groceries or visit friends / Insider
- To reopen schools safely, close streets and create outdoor classrooms / Fast Company
- Just What We Need in a Pandemic: The Walking Cure / PsychCentral
- ‘The Wrong Complexion for Protection’: How Race Shaped Americas Roadways and Cities / NPR
- Opinion: Urbanism is Complicit in Infrastructural Racism – And Reparations Have a Place in the Built Environment / Destiny Thomas / Streetsblog
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!
