



## Walking Towards an Anti-Racist Walking Movement

Like many of you, we are digesting the much-needed critique of white-centered urbanism and identifying how we are complicit in that as we walk our walk.

Our mission states that *everyone* should have safe, equitable, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and move. Yet, we know the system by which our cities are planned and designed, is built on the foundation of structural racism.

We commit to promoting an anti-racist walking movement with an active interrogation of the power dynamics of mobility justice and dismantling oppression in land use and transportation decision making.

As we continue to listen and learn, our current actions include:

1. Centering Black, Indigenous and people of color's voices on our platform and in our publications, moving out of the way to feature those with the lived experience to lead.
2. Only supporting projects and initiatives that address structural racism and implement anti-racist efforts.
3. Following the direction of BIPOC urbanist and mobility experts to operationalize the steps required to transform systems and promote the actions most likely to create anti-racist walkable environments.

Below are thought-provoking pieces that helped us question the ways we work, and for whom. We invite you to read them to continue listening, learning and seeking necessary discomfort alongside us.

- [Safe Streets' Are Not Safe for Black Lives](#) / *Dr. Destiny Thomas, City Lab*
  - [Whose Streets? Black Streets](#) / *Amina Yasin, Streetsblog USA*
  - [A Call to Courage](#) / *Jay Pitter*
  - [Why We Must Talk About Race When We Talk About Bikes](#) / *Tamika Butler, Bicycling*
  - [America's Cities Were Designed to Oppress](#) / *Bryan Lee Jr., City Lab*
  - [How Do We Respond to Anti-Black Racism in Urbanist Practices and Conversations?](#) / *Canadian Urban Institute*
  - [How to End Anti-Blackness in Cities](#) / *Alissa Walker, Curbed*
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20 years strong  
AMERICA  
WALKS

## TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

An introductory webinar in the Walking  
Towards Justice in Indian Country series



BE AWARE  
WAPINAP'XNI

Native Americans and Alaska Natives are almost 5 times more likely to be killed by walking than any other racial or ethnic group in the US. The Tribal Transportation Planning and Pedestrian Safety webinar explores why pedestrian fatalities are so prevalent in tribal communities.

Webinar panelists represented government agencies, research organizations, and the communities of Pueblo of Laguna and Yakama Nation – to provide an overview of the pedestrian fatality/injury data and explore potential solutions to this problem, providing examples of in-depth case studies.

[Watch the Webinar](#)

## Walking Towards Justice in Indian Country: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Webinar

In the US, Native American women are more than twice as likely to experience violence than any other demographic. One in three Native women is sexually assaulted during her life, 67% of these assaults are perpetrated by non-Natives, and many of the abductions take place when the victim is walking along a highway.

Webinar participants will learn how the dark history of colonization, complex jurisdictional issues, and racialized indifference have created the circumstances in which these crimes are regularly perpetrated and rarely prosecuted.

Panelists include civil rights advocates, practitioners, and researchers, as well as US Congresswoman Deb Haaland (NM-1), who introduced federal legislation last year to address this “silent crisis,” and author Jessica McDiarmid, who documented numerous personal stories in her book, *Highway of Tears*. Join us for this important discussion on August 12th.

[Learn More and  
Register](#)

## PED Talks Episode 1: A Conversation With Don Edwards



In our new series, PED Talks, we'll interview thought leaders, practitioners and grassroots walking and moving champions on ideas that motivate and generate our work for walkable communities.

In our first episode, America Walks' Executive Director Kate Kraft speaks with Don Edwards, one of the most deft facilitator–mediator–negotiators and civic engagement designers in the field of land use and development. He is also the founder of Justice and Sustainability Associates (JSA).

[Watch PED Talks Episode 1](#)

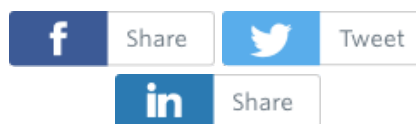
## The Health Benefits of Walking



Did you know that less than 50% of youth and 24% of adults get enough physical activity?

Walking has many health benefits, from lowering blood pressure to improving depression scores. We've created an updated two–pager report that covers the issues inherent with too much sedentary behavior, why walking is critical and the top health benefits of walking.

[Read About and Share the Health Benefits of Walking](#)



## Mark Those Calendars:

**July 1st, 2020** – [Register now](#) for Center for Planning Excellence's free webinar: 21st Century Neighborhood – Are We There Yet?, where America Walks' Walking College Manager Emilie Bahr is a featured panelist.

**July 8th 2020** – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: Walking as a Practice: What Does It Mean to You?

**July 22nd, 2020** – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative.

**August 4th–7th 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.

**August 12th, 2020** – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

## Content of the Month:

- [Dropping Enforcement from the Safe Routes to School 6 E's Framework / \*Safe Routes Partnership\*](#)
- [Walking is Making a Major Comeback / \*Outside\*](#)
- [In Praise of Walking: A New Scientific Exploration – a conversation with author Shane O'Mara / \*America Walks\*](#)
- [Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery / \*NACTO\*](#)
- [Coronavirus Latest: 60% of anxious adults say walking 'helped them cope' during lockdown / \*i news\*](#)
- [Enhancing Walkable Spaces through Public Art / \*America Walks\*](#)
- [The Racial Injustice of American Highways / \*City Lab\*](#)

*Juneteenth has passed but you can still honor the day by supporting these organizations:*



@americawalks celebrates

# juneteenth

## BLACK URBANISTS & WALKING/MOVING GROUPS TO SUPPORT



On this 2020 Juneteenth, celebrate by donating, hiring and supporting black owned and/or led urban planning and walking/moving organizations and businesses – those working for authentic walkable community change. Today and every day.





## Some organizations and businesses to support:

(not at all an exhaustive list)



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### donate

GirlTrek  
People for Mobility Justice  
Outdoor Afro  
The Untokening  
Black Girls Run  
Black Men Run  
Black Women Bike  
Black Girls Do Bike

### support/hire

The Thrivance Group  
Nspiregreen  
The Black Urbanist  
City Fit Girls  
Spirit for Change Consulting

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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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