

May 2020

20^{years strong} AMERICA WALKS

Walking, Moving, Existing in Public Space Should Never Cost a Life

Walking, moving, occupying our cities, neighborhoods, public spaces and streets without death or fear of death is a basic human right. Anything less is unacceptable.

We can talk about the myriad of ways that walking intersects with what is happening in our streets right now. **George Floyd was walking** when officers led him onto the sidewalk before he sat against a wall. **Derek Chauvin and the other officers involved can walk wherever they want** to right now as they currently face no criminal charges. **Protestors are walking** through collective grief while seeking accountability and action.

But the only thing we need to talk about is the violence against BIPOC in our streets and how to stop grotesque human rights violations in our public spaces (**and our homes**). And further, how we as walkable community leaders and advocates uphold anti-racist principles in every act of our work.

We are still figuring this out for ourselves and welcome your feedback. Here are some resources and writings that address adopting an anti-racist framework:

- [Stop Killing Us: A Real Life Nightmare](#) / *Tamika Butler*
 - [The Toxic Intersection of Race and Public Space](#) / *City Lab*
 - [Walking and Walkability in the Time of COVID-19: Changing Policies and Practices](#) / *America Walks*
 - [Facing Racism Training](#) / *Soul 2 Soul Sisters*
 - [Transformative Talks](#) / *Untokening & Pueblo Planning*
 - [How do we make sure that open streets are truly open for everyone?](#) / *Streetsblog Chicago*
 - [The Unmattering of Black Lives](#) / *Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw*
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ON AHMAUD

The Ahmaud Arbery killing is a tragic reminder that for many it's not just automobiles that make streets unsafe.

As walkable community leaders and advocates we must acknowledge the traumatic ways that black, indigenous, and/or people of color are experiencing the public right of way and make sure our voices and recommendations acknowledge the structural racism that undermines safety.

AMERICA WALKS

[Read the Full Statement](#)

Making Meaning and Finding Solutions for a Better Future + 5 Tips for Sparking Walkable Community Change



There is no denying the significant suffering that COVID 19 has brought and will continue to bring for months and perhaps years ahead, however, there is also no denying that our future can be different from our past.

This is a moment in time to reflect and rejoice in the people-first, community changes we know we have the power to create. Read more from our Executive Director, Kate Kraft, and get tips for how to activate authentic community change.

[Read the Blog](#)

Research in Action: Results for How Municipalities Are Addressing Increased Demand for Safe Public Space

We asked you to become a real-time citizen scientist on how your streets are being repurposed during COVID-19 and the polls are in. Our panelists with UNC's Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center presented on an effort to collect and analyze data on these strategies in order to identify community-based factors related to their adoption, impacts, long-term viability, and potential unintended consequence.

They also shared ideas for creative approaches in estimating the impacts of COVID-19 on walking conditions and pedestrian activity. Check out the results and the recording for the interesting conclusions.

[Watch the Webinar and View the Results](#)



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REGISTER FOR OUR
JUNE 10th WEBINAR

Enhancing Walkable Spaces through Public Art



Ophelia Chambliss
Muralist, Artist
& Educator



Karla Osete
Artist in Residence
LaLinea Art Studio



Melissa Johnson
Town of Matthews
Cultural Recreation Manager



**America Walks welcomes the
Walking College Class of 2020**

**25 walkable community advocates are
learning and getting to work right now**



We announced our latest class of Walking College Fellows, is one in your community? Get to know these 25 walkable neighborhood champions and learn more about the Walking College.

[Meet the 2020 Walking
College Fellows](#)



Thanks to pressure from walkable community advocates, with Walk Austin's lead, the Austin City Council just passed a Healthy Streets program. A big deal for the over 40 percent of Austinites who don't live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Gabe Colombo, an urban design intern at Black + Vernoooy Architecture and Urban Design in Austin, walks us through the details.

[Get Behind the Scenes on
Austin's Healthy Streets](#)



Fire up your imagination and your step count! World Walking is a gamified adventure that will take you to some of the best places on earth – virtually.

The pandemic has led to many more people than normal signing up to use World Walking, in search of staying active and connected safely.

[Read More About World Walking](#)

Mark Those Calendars:

June 3rd, 2020 – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: In Praise of Walking: A New Scientific Exploration – a conversation with author and neuroscientist Shane O'Mara.

June 10th, 2020 – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: Enhancing Walkable Spaces Through Public Art.

June 23rd, 2020 – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: Tribal Transportation Planning and Pedestrian Safety.

June 3rd – 24th, 2020 – [Register now](#) for Eno Center for Transportation's Road to Recovery webinar series.

Content of the Month:

- [Book Excerpt: Walking is the best thing that you can do for your health](#) | *Outside*
- [Webcast: Racial Equity During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) | *National Low Income Housing Coalition*
- [Opinion: Coronavirus is not fuel for your urbanist fantasies](#) | *Curbed*
- [London to make miles of streets car-free to encourage walking and cycling](#) | *Autoblog*
- [Active People, Healthy Nation](#) | *CroiHealth*
- [Opinion: Slow streets are a path to a better city](#) | *Curbed*
- [Create Safe Places to Walk and Bike During COVID-19](#) | *Rails-to-Trails Conservancy*
- [Under Coronavirus rules, traffic is down, but speeding is way WAY up](#) | *Miami Herald*

20 years strong
**AMERICA
WALKS**

5 TIPS FOR SPARKING WALKABLE

COMMUNITY CHANGE



PRIORITIZE EQUITABLE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

Push for more equitable access to public space while creating ample opportunity for community input to be reflective and representative of disenfranchised or underserved community members.

EMPHASIZE SHARED STREETS, SLOW STREETS, HEALTHY STREETS.

Be part of your community's effort to repurpose streets for all users. Ensure that all community members weigh in and that enforcement of public space does not perpetuate dangerous structural racism or ableism.



GET SPEED LIMITS LOWERED IN YOUR CITY

Speed kills. Twenty is Plenty is an international movement that saves lives by reducing speeds.



GET TACTICAL WITH YOUR (SOCIAL DISTANCED) WORK

Open curbs, solo walk audits, DIY open streets, reallocation of pedestrian call buttons – review guides on quick build pop-up options to try in your neighborhood.





Walk your talk. Now is the most important time to model, preach, and practice (send us photos/videos!), that walking is a legitimate, effective, healthy, no-carbon footprint form of transportation.

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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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