

January 2021

# 20 years strong AMERICA WALKS

## Grassroots Projects for Safety, Inclusivity and Accessibility – Meet Our Newest Community Change Grantees

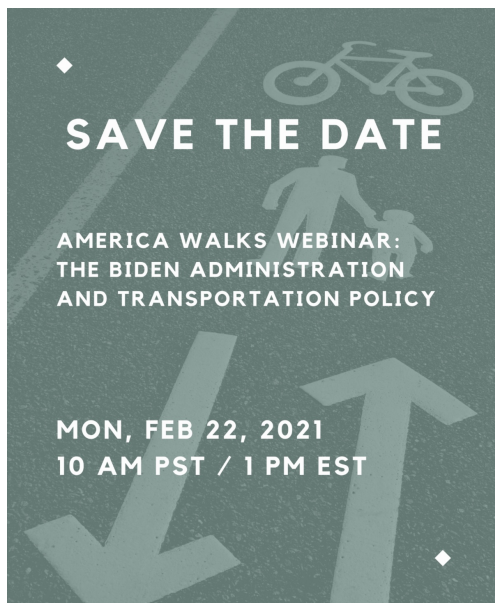


From ADA accessible walking trails to a safe-space Grief Garden, we are proud to announce the 13 awarded projects of the 2020 Community Change Grant Program. This program supports local, grassroots efforts to create safe, accessible and enjoyable places to walk and move for all community members.

Since the beginning of the program in 2015, with the help of various generous partners like Active People, Healthy Nation, we've awarded about 170,000 in funds to more than a hundred projects. These proposals were selected from nearly 600 applications because they demonstrate a clear drive to create healthy, active, and engaged communities that support walking and moving for transportation, health, and recreation – with a foundation of equity and authentic engagement of the whole community.

[Read All About the Grantees Here](#)





## The Biden Administration and Transportation Policy – a webinar

The inauguration of President Joe Biden and the appointment of Pete Buttigieg as USDOT leader creates the potential for a dramatic shift in U.S. transportation policy.

We've already heard discussions of complete streets, sidewalk construction, increased transit funding and removal of highways that divided Black communities. How big a shift will it be?

We've put together a panel that is engaged in watching, and pushing, the Biden Administration on transportation policy.

[Join us, Register Here](#)



## Want to Activate Solutions to the Challenges Facing Your Area?

Our Walking College leadership program will open applications for the entire month of February. This six-month remote training is for anyone looking to hone their skills and knowledge around creating vibrant, safe, engaged and accessible communities by making lasting changes to the built and policy environments. In this sixth year of the program, we are seeking 30 Walking College fellows who want to be part of bringing about transformative change in their neighborhoods.

Beyond the imperative skills that Fellows will learn, one of the biggest selling points of the program is the life-long relationships and highly connected walkable communities network that Fellows join by going through the Walking College and working intimately with America Walks.

# THE WALKING COLLEGE

20 years strong  
AMERICA WALKS



[Learn More and Apply Here in February](#)



## Learn More about the Walking College from Our Walking College Manager

I believe it is up to the mothers – and fathers, grandparents, teachers, and others – who care about future generations of this city and other cities, towns and rural areas, to take action to bring about the sorts of positive changes that can create safer, more equitable, sustainable, and liveable communities.

To that end, I encourage anyone who's ever wanted to make a real difference where they live but may not have been sure how to go about doing so to apply for the [Walking College](#), a remote-learning program that imparts fellows with the knowledge and skills they need to become leaders in creating stronger, safer communities.

[Read Emilie Bahr's Full Blog Here](#)

## How Much is the Walking College Actually Doing Out There? The data is in and it's a whole lot.

Since its inception in 2015, America Walks has graduated about 150 walkable community leaders through the Walking College.

This new report is an in-depth look at the



## OUTCOMES FROM THE FIRST FOUR YEARS OF THE WALKING COLLEGE



outcomes of much of their collective work and provides intimate examples of the tangible, grassroots change activated in neighborhoods across the United States.

A couple highlights:

- Within 1–2 years of completing the Walking College, more than 1,000 positive walking and walkability outcomes have been identified in the Fellows' communities, 1/3 of which are “entirely” or “mostly” due to the Walking College.
- 40 new policies designed to slow down traffic and add pedestrian infrastructure have been adopted.

[Read the Walking College  
Outcomes Report](#)

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### America Walks Honors Jay Walljasper – Prolific Storyteller and Champion for Unsung Walkable Communities

In a classic way, Jay was compelled by the true, the good, and the beautiful. While his writings were often about place, they were rooted in life: nature, community, meaning, belonging, love. Among his many gifts was the depth of his curiosity.

- TYLER NORRIS, WELL BEING TRUST

[Read Our Tribute to Jay Here](#)

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[Register for our February 10th Webinar with Author Sara Hendren](#)

AMERICA WALKS WEBINAR

## WHAT CAN A BODY DO? HOW WE MEET THE BUILT WORLD – A CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR SARA HENDREN

Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
11AM PST - 2PM EST

REGISTER AT [WWW.AMERICAWALKS.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICAWALKS.ORG)



Walking or wheeling, accompanied or alone, getting around in public space means getting into the public sphere—and for people with disabilities, the very fabric of streets and sidewalks and architecture has had to be remade, edited and altered, to make moving around possible for all of us. Sharing the city and sharing civic life isn't easy or obvious, but the design of those spaces can help us build the collective futures we want.

Join us for Sara Hendren's presentation on her book, *What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World*. Elizabeth Guffey and Claire Stanley will join the conversation during a robust Q and A session for the second half of the webinar. Learn more about our speakers/panelists below.

[Learn More and Register for the Webinar Here](#)

### Did You Miss Our January Webinar?

We recently had a conversation with author Mindy Thompson Fullilove about her book *Main Street: How a City's Heart Connects Us All*, and how it connects to current times.

Main Streets are centers for conviviality which is crucial to creativity and imagination — so important for surviving all the challenges we face.

This webinar investigated how Main Streets work and what they need from us right now.



[Watch the Recording Here](#)

### Automated Vehicle Regulation – Tell NHTSA to Put People First

Automated Vehicles hold amazing promise to make people safer on our nation's roadways. To date, our nation's chief road safety regulator – NHTSA – has not made any regulations to ensure that promise is realized. Now, they are taking a first step by asking for public comments on a Framework for Automated Driving System Safety.



Please join the League of American Bicyclists in asking NHTSA to prioritize people who bike, walk and move and care about biking and walking safety in its first-ever Framework for Automated Driving System Safety. Your voice matters.

**Tell NHTSA to Put People First**

## APPLY FOR A \$2,500 TRIBAL MINI GRANT

Applications Close On February 15th

Tribal government and non-profit groups are invited to apply for \$2,500 mini-grants to fund activities that make planning and community design processes more inclusive. The funding can be used for staff time, contracts, communications, meeting materials, and other project costs which effectively include people with disabilities in improving the accessibility of communities. Monday, February 15th is the deadline to complete the quick application below.

For more information on America Walks, *"Inclusive Planning in Tribal Communities: Engaging People with Disabilities in Designing Safe and Accessible Transportation Systems"* project:

- [Watch the Webinar](#)
- [Read the White Paper](#)

Thanks to our friends at the National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability (NCHPAD) for their funding support.

**Apply for a Mini Grant Here**

### Mark Those Calendars:

**January 31st, 2021** – Did an organization or person you know make an impact for better biking in 2020? Nominate them in the League of American Bicyclists Advocacy and Education Awards [by clicking here](#).

**February 1st, 2021** – Register Early for Walk Bike Places 2021, taking place June 15–18th 2021. [Click here to learn more](#).

**February 10th, 2021** – Register for our upcoming webinar, What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World – a conversation with author Sara Hendren. [Click here to join us](#).

**February 15th, 2021** – The deadline for tribal government and non-profit groups to apply for \$2,500 mini-grants to fund activities that make planning and community design processes more inclusive. [Apply here](#).

**February 1st–28th, 2021** – Apply to be a Fellow in the 2021 Walking College class, open through

the end of February. [Learn more here.](#)

February 22nd, 2021 – [Register here](#) for America Walks upcoming webinar, The Biden Administration and Transportation Policy.

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## Content of the Month:

- **4 Steps to Creating Inclusive, Anti-Racist Third Spaces / *American Planning Association***
  - **Streetsmart: Evidence and insight for climate protection, public health, and equity in transportation / *America Walks***
  - **Jaywalking decriminalization is coming, 100 years after the auto industry helped make it a crime/ *Virginia Mercury***
  - **Why Sustainable Transportation Advocates Need to Talk About Seating / *Streetsblog USA***
  - **The joy of steps: 20 ways to give purpose to your daily walk/ *The Guardian***
  - **'Slow Streets' Disrupted City Planning. What Comes Next?/ *Bloomberg***
  - **Implicit Bias Action Pack w/ Coaching / *Salud America!***
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