# AMERICA WALKS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

2017 was a year of great growth and nostalgic reflection. America Walks became the managing partner of both the Transit Walkability Collaborative and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative, and our network expanded to over 32,000 advocates. We also took some time to acknowledge our history while celebrating our 20th anniversary year. Recognizing they could shine a national spotlight on walking and walkability by working together, several community-based walking groups joined forces to form America Walks back in 1997. We are grateful to have uplifted the walking movement, from the national to the neighborhood level, for two whole decades now. The strength of America Walks stems directly from our large network of supporters of walking champions and has led to our greatest year yet.

### How We Expanded The Walking Movement in 2017



Hosted the 2017 National Walking Summit. Over 600 attendees, representing three countries, gathered in St. Paul, MN, for an extended 2-day conference. Equity and social justice were high-level Summit themes woven through session topics and punctuated by inspiring addresses from a host of featured speakers. Juliette Rizzo, Ms. Wheelchair America 2005 and an accomplished



advocate for people with disabilities, brought the crowd to its feet in a spontaneous standing ovation. Glenn Harris, President of the new Race Forward and publisher of Colorlines; Adonia Lugo, an anthropologist who focuses on racial inclusion in active transportation movements; Brian Knudsen, Research Associate at Poverty & Race Research Action Council; and Tamika Butler, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, also led the way on topics of discrimination, the need for social justice, working for equity, and how walking advocates can make a difference for vulnerable populations in their home communities.



Awarded \$33,000 in Community Change Grants, working with dozens of grassroots groups across the US. Each unique project increased walking and benefits of walkability in communities, and further developed the movement by growing the number and diversity of people and organizations pushing for enhanced walkability.

The Community Change Grant from America Walks gave our Walk Across Alabama participants what they needed to feel successful in their efforts, and we were able to double our participation from past years.

- Bonita McCay, Executive Director of Shoals Community Clinic



**Built Upon Our Micro-Grant Program** by offering three inclusive health-focused awards. Offered in conjunction with the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability, these specific awards enhanced community accessibility for people with disabilities.



*Graduated Our Third Class of Walking College Fellows.* Having spent the last six months learning from experienced walkable community campaigners about leadership, coalition-building, effective communication, walkable community design, transportation and land-use policy, and campaign planning, 24 community change agents made the transition from students to practitioners. We celebrated a 100% graduation rate as all 24 Fellows completed all of the requirements, including developing a long-term Walking Action Plan (WAP) to guide their future work.

Launched the Walking Towards Justice Webinar Series. On top of our regular webinars that reached thousands of advocates in 2017, Walking Towards Justice integrated literature into a discussion regarding intersectionality of mobility, race, class, gender, and politics. The three webinars included an

 One of the best panels I've ever witnessed - raw, honest, informational and with solutions discussed.
America Walks Walking Towards Justice webinar attendee

interactive panel of leading scholars, activists, practitioners, America Walks Board members, and policymakers, who discussed and explored connections between walking and other key topics such as social equity, residential segregation, gentrification, police brutality, and more.



### **Financial Overview**



#### 2017 Donors and Support

America Walks gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations during 2017. Your investment in our work makes a difference in communities throughout the US. We could not do this work without you. Thank you for walking with us and making your mark on the walking movement in 2017.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 SUPPORTERS

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PO Box 70742 Bethesda, MD 20813 - 503.610.6619 - www.americawalks.org

