

Arts Midwest

AfriWell Hub, Inc. (Organization)

Dubuque, IA

East African Traditions

Walking Together support will allow AfriWell Hub to expand our folklife programming, deepen community partnerships, and elevate African cultural traditions through storytelling, music, dance, and intergenerational learning.

\$50,000

Sylvia Brown (Individual)

Meskwaki Settlement, IA

Sac and Fox Beadwork, Regalia Making

Walking Together funds will help increase our supply base and ensure generations to come can keep making traditional clothing for their tribe.

\$15,000

Chicago Blues Revival (Organization)

Chicago, IL

Chicago Blues

Walking Together funding will help Chicago Blues Revival form a Blues Engagement Council that can help guide the organization's work and keep it connected to residents of the Bronzeville community that is the cradle of Chicago blues. This group will include senior citizens who regularly attend our Silver Fox Pop-Up Series, younger residents invested in Bronzeville's cultural life, and working Blues musicians from across Chicago.

\$50,000

Juan Díes (Individual)

Chicago, IL

Mexican Traditional Music

In the next three years, I hope to solidify and share the legacy of my folklife practice from the past 35 years, while creating new materials for younger generations.

\$15,000

Winding Wednesday (Organization)

Indianapolis, IN

Chin (Myanmar) Craft Traditions

Walking Together support will help us expand needed workshops to include traditional dance and music, traditional headdresses, and jewelry, while allowing us to offer stable, more frequent, and diverse workshops such as weaving, basket-making, cooking, and storytelling. More importantly, it will help us reach more youth, creating intergenerational bridges that ensure cultural knowledge is not lost but carried forward, ensuring that cultural heritage remains a living, evolving part of community life in Indiana.

\$50,000

Kalamazoo Chinese Academy (Organization)

Portage, MI

Chinese Language, Traditions

Walking Together will transform KCA's ability to address our most critical need: capacity building for our organization - including fair compensation for the artists, educators, and staff who keep our traditions alive.

\$50,000

Ronald Paquin (Individual)

St. Ignace, MI

Chippewa Canoe Building, Other Craft

Walking Together will play a critical role in my ability to access the natural materials I need, help me bring environmental issues relating to availability of materials to light, and host a hands-on gathering of all of my apprentices and Michigan tribal cultural divisions to share stories and knowledge.

\$15,000

Penny Kagigebi (Individual)

Detroit Lakes, MN

Anishinaabe Quillwork

With Walking Together support, I will increase my Woodland porcupine quillwork and birchbark basketry skills, amplify public exposure to these endangered artforms, and create more options for beginner and advanced learners. Storytelling, ceremony, land relationship, and Anishinaabe Queer Two-Spirit cultural knowledge will continue to be shared through these venues and more.

\$15,000

Waawaate Programs (Organization)

Ely, MN

Anishinaabe Traditions

Walking Together funds will be used to increase our Indigenous cultural arts programming and assist in greater collaboration projects with Bois Forte Anishinaabeg.

\$50,000

Grey Willow, Inc. (Organization)

Fort Yates (Standing Rock Sioux Reservation), ND

Media Production, Standing Rock Sioux Traditions

Walking Together funds will help in achieving our goals and more community involvement as we strive for the future of our organization.

\$50,000

Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center (Organization)

Cleveland, OH

Puerto Rican, Other Latino Traditions

Walking Together will support our Latino cultural arts programming in the Greater Cleveland area.

\$50,000

Kevin Pourier (Individual)

Scenic, SD

Lakota Buffalo Horn Craft

Walking Together funding will catalyze preservation initiatives with impact extending far beyond my individual artistic practice. This support will enable the systematic documentation and transmission of buffalo horn artistry - knowledge that exists nowhere else and faces extinction with my generation.

\$15,000

The Keya Foundation, Inc. (Organization)

Eagle Butte (Cheyenne River Indian Reservation), SD

Lakota Traditions and Community Health

Walking Together support helps us continue building programs that empower young people, honor cultural values, and create lasting change across our community.

\$50,000

Na Hale Cultural Arts Center, Inc. (Organization)

Menomonee Falls, WI

Native Hawai'ian, Polynesian Dance

Walking Together funds will help us to build organizational capacity and stabilize programming.

\$50,000

Rachel Jeske (Individual)

West Allis, WI

Moccasin Making

The Walking Together funds will allow me to create professional instructional materials and a complete workshop curriculum for multiple moccasin styles, and to test this work through pilot workshops. This support will strengthen my ability to preserve, teach, and share traditional moccasin-making with the community.

\$15,000

Creative West

Sitka School District & Sitka Native Education Program (Organization)

Sitka, AK

Tlingit Craft

Walking Together will support our program in reaching more students year-round through increasing our personnel capacity.

\$50,000

Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (Organization)

Pagopago, AS

Samoan Language, Other Traditions

Walking Together support will help our youth with our mental health field days and secure a bigger place to host our activities.

\$50,000

Harmony Project Phoenix (Organization)

Phoenix, AZ

Latin American Traditional Music

Walking Together funding will help us transform former students into teaching artists, creating a powerful student-to-teacher pipeline that carries our musical traditions forward for generations.

\$50,000

Merced Maldonado (Individual)

Tucson, AZ

Taqui Pascola; Indigenous Ceremonial Dances, Regalia, Knowledge Keeper. Material Culture

I will use Walking Together funds to expand my teaching offerings and tools my students will have access to. As well as camping trips to connect to nature.

\$15,000

Culture through Cloth (Organization)

Sacramento, CA

Hmong Flower Cloth (Paj Ntaub)

Walking Together support will bolster the visibility of our organization, allowing us to develop a stronger online presence and expand Paj Ntaub Circles to offer new workshops and digital courses to reach out national audience.

\$50,000

Jenny Young (Individual)

Castro Valley, CA

Kalinga (Filipino) Traditional Arts; Weaving, Dance, Sing Medicine, Healing, Knowledge

Walking Together funds will enable collaborative projects with other Indigenous Peoples, support an exhibit showcasing work by myself and my apprentices, and permit re-rooting trips for cultural immersion and exchange in my native province known as Kalinga.

\$15,000

The Global Food and Drink Initiative (Organization)

Oakland, CA

African Diaspora Foodways

Walking Together funds will be the foundation of launching our project to preserve Black food culture and history globally for the public, education institutions, libraries, museums and more.

\$50,000

Stiles African American Heritage Center (Organization)

Denver, CO

Community History of Five Points Black Neighborhood

Walking Together allows us to carry on the vision and legacy of Grace Stiles, who 30 years ago founded the Stiles African American Heritage Center as a cultural pillar of the historically Black neighborhood of Five Points in Denver. We are excited to grow ways we may weave community in the garden and around community tea tables, where we share food prepared with love, stitch together histories as part of quilting circles, inspire each other by honoring the accomplishments of community members, and delve into social contexts through hosting book clubs and signings.

\$50,000

Dakota Camacho (Individual)

Barrigada, GU

Matao/CHamoru Ceremony

I will use Walking Together funds for the development of Gi Matan Guma' tools and programs that will support our work in documenting, creating, and disseminating Matao/CHamoru Indigenous knowledge & arts.

\$15,000

Inadahen I Lina'la' Kotturan CHamoru (Organization)

Hagatna, GU

Pacific Island Craft, Other Traditions

\$50,000

Wāheha Foundation (Organization)

Honolulu, HI

Men's Hula Dance (Hula Kāne)

Walking Together funds will help us create an exhibit called "Ke Kilo Lani". This exhibit opens a window into Robert Uluwehionapuaikawekiuokalani Cazimero's extraordinary life's journey to ensure the continuity of Hawaiian cultural heritage in both traditional and innovative teachings.

\$50,000

Danza Azteca Tonatiuh (Organization)

Boise, ID

Mexican Traditional Dances for Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Walking Together support will strengthen our ability to preserve and share our traditions through Aztec dance by expanding our outreach, training, and community engagement. It will allow us to deepen cultural education, mentor new dancers, and provide regalia so more families can access and connect with their heritage.

\$50,000

CNMI Arts & Culture, Inc. (Organization)

Saipan, MP

Chamorro and Carolinian Traditions

Walking Together will support uniform use and alignment of instructional language delivery to over 5,000 students in our public elementary schools through training of teachers on the new orthography. Walking Together will also give youth the opportunity to share as well as experience the dual CNMI culture through expos and performance.

\$50,000

Crow Fair Powwow (Organization)

Crow Indian Reservation, MT

Apsaalooke (Crow) powwow traditions

Walking Together support will ease our workload to provide services. It will maintain the rich culture and ensure the arts exist in continuity for generations to come within the indigenous community.

\$50,000

The Center for Social Sustainable Systems (Organization)

Albuquerque, NM

Sustainability of Traditional Acequia Water Systems

Walking Together funding will significantly strengthen CESOSS's ability to expand our school-based acequia education programs.

\$50,000

Warlance Chee (Individual)

Albuquerque, NM

Diné (Navajo) Chanter/Singer, Ceremonial Arts

Walking Together will allow us to continue to provide access to ceremonial healing for our community and continue working with our Diné male relatives on their roles and responsibilities.

\$15,000

Tribal Minds (Organization)

Sparks, NV

Powwow Traditions, Community Health, Youth Programs

This support is going to help save our culture, in a time, where we need the most care and encouragement.

\$50,000

Celeste Whitewolf (Individual)

Tigard, OR

Washut Indian Religion of the Plateau Tribes of Eastern Oregon/Washington and Idaho
Ceremonies, Dance

The Walking Together grant will fortify my ability to teach my traditional skills to other people. I will teach younger people how to use their skills to "pass down" knowledge to future generations.

\$15,000

Community Building Services (Organization)

Salt Lake City, UT

Nepali-Speaking Bhutanese Traditions

Walking Together support will enable Community Building Services to secure a dedicated dance studio space and strengthen organizational capacity. With these funds, we will create cultural exhibit showcases that highlight our work and foster connections with broader communities. This initiative will promote the sharing of cultural values, expand learning opportunities, and enhance workforce development. Ultimately, it will increase participant engagement and build a stronger, more inclusive community.

\$50,000

Global Wisdom Collective (Organization)

Tacoma, WA

Traditional Chinese Medicine, Other Traditional Medicine Systems

Walking Together funding will help GWC strengthen its capacity to better support communities in safeguarding their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and sustaining intergenerational learning and archiving efforts.

\$50,000

Hai Hong (Individual)

Bothell, WA

Vietnamese Traditional Music

Walking Together affirms that my 25 years of dedication to preserving Vietnamese traditional music have not been forgotten, and it will empower me to continue and expand this important work, allowing Vietnamese traditional music to reach and inspire more people across America.

\$15,000

Wind River Community Alliance (Organization)

Riverton (Wind River Indian Reservation), WY

Wind River Craft

Walking Together funding will empower Indigenous artists of the Wind River Reservation to thrive as cultural bearers and entrepreneurs by expanding authentic opportunities to showcase and sell their work. This support strengthens community resilience by keeping resources on the reservation and sustaining cultural traditions across generations.

\$50,000

Mid Atlantic Arts

Black Alley Cooperative Association (Organization)

Washington, DC

Go-Go Music

Walking Together support will help strengthen our foundation, expand cultural programming rooted in Go-Go, and create sustainable pathways for intergenerational transmission of D.C.'s Black musical traditions.

\$50,000

Devin Walker (Individual)

Washington, DC

Go-Go Music

This grant will support my growth and sustainability as an artist by strengthening my creative and operational capacity, allowing me to deepen my drum-led, culturally rooted work with children and families while continuing to move my work forward despite professional setbacks.

\$15,000

Terry Sammons (Individual)

Wilmington, DE

Lenape Beadwork, Fish Skin Tanning

The Walking Together grant will allow me to get more supplies to create beadwork designs, teach more people this artform, and keep the practice alive. Right now, in our community beadwork is close to dying out, that's what's wearing me and bothering me so much.

\$15,000

Treinta Y Tres Delaware Rueda, Inc. (Organization)

Claymont, DE

Cuban Social Dance

Funding from Walking Together will help us preserve and share the vibrant tradition of Rueda de Casino by supporting authentic instruction, inclusive programs, and strong community connections. This support will make our events more accessible, deepen our cultural offerings, expand outreach, and strengthen our organization for long-term impact.

\$50,000

Junious Brickhouse (Individual)

Silver Spring, MD

African Diaspora Urban Dance

Walking Together support will help me deepen the relational, intergenerational work that keeps our traditions alive, from mentorship and gathering to sharing the stories that bind us. This investment strengthens the cultural foundations our communities rely on, ensuring these traditions are not only performed but carried forward with care and integrity.

\$15,000

National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. (Organization)

Baltimore, MD

African American Storytelling

Walking Together funding will impact the communities that NABS serves through developing next generation initiatives, capacity building, and creating a long-term sustainability plan.

\$50,000

Camden FireWorks, Inc. (Organization)

Camden, NJ

Crafts Rooted in African American Communities

Walking Together funds will help ensure the sustainability of our organization as well as our programs in support of folklife traditions.

\$50,000

Ylvia Asal (Individual)

Haddonfield, NJ

Turkish Lacemaking, Papercraft

Through Walking Together, I will strengthen and evolve my folk art, blending ancestral techniques with contemporary approaches while building meaningful cultural bridges in my community.

\$15,000

Friends of Ganondagan, Inc. (Organization)

Victor, NY

Haudenosaunee Traditions

Walking Together Support will be used in support of Haudenosaunee cultural programming and Indigenous cross-cultural experiences.

\$50,000

Hayden Haynes (Individual)

Steamburg (Allegheny Seneca Reservation), NY

Antler Carving

Walking Together support will help me secure studio space and to provide free carving classes on the Seneca-Allegany Territory.

\$15,000

César Viveros (Individual)

Philadelphia, PA

Muralist, Mexican Día de los Muertos Traditions

With the support of Walking Together, I will build a body of work that inspires a mural, illustrates a “Tonalpohualli” Meso-American calendar, and deepens my connection with my immigrant community.

\$15,000

Nuuxakun (Organization)

Philadelphia, PA

Mexican Folk Dance

Walking Together support will, for the first time, give our folkloric dance group a dedicated studio with safe flooring, open space, and mirrors after years of adapting borrowed spaces for rehearsals. It will also fund materials for our arts programs and provide fair compensation for the traditional artists who have taught as volunteers until now.

\$50,000

Instituto Folclórico Puertorriqueño Rafael Cepeda Atilés (Organization)

San Juan, PR

Afro-Puerto Rican Plena and Bomba

Walking Together funding will strengthen our school to continue the legacy, preservation, conservation, and teaching of Bomba and Plena—Puerto Rico's cultural heritage—through documentation, expansion of educational programs, and training the next generation of instructors who will keep these traditions alive.

El financiamiento de Walking Together fortalecerá nuestra escuela para continuar el legado, la preservación, conservación y enseñanza de la Bomba y la Plena—patrimonio cultural de Puerto Rico—a través de la documentación, la expansión de programas educativos, y la formación de la próxima generación de instructores que mantendrán vivas estas tradiciones.

\$50,000

Nasheli Juliana Ortiz González (Individual)

Caguas, PR

Textile Art, Fashion Design

Walking Together support will allow me to focus fully on my decolonial design work at Atelier LaQuNa—without having to juggle multiple jobs to survive. This grant ensures I can preserve Afro-Caribbean textile traditions, build community, and teach resistance through cloth with the care, depth, and presence they deserve.

\$15,000

Elegba Folklore Society, Inc. (Organization)

Richmond, VA

African Diaspora Traditions

Walking Together funding will allow Elegba Folklore Society to invest in organizational sustainability. We can deepen mission-based programming with the resources needed to strengthen our role as a cultural anchor for Metro Richmond and a steward of important cultural traditions.

\$50,000

Maurice “Tito” Sanabria (Individual)

Chesterfield, VA

Regional Mayagüez, PR, Plena Music

Funding from the Walking Together Grant will make it possible to launch workshops, events, recordings, and regular practice spaces that strengthen and grow a Plena Community of Practice. It will also support the creation and promotion of original works, bring in guest practitioners, and provide opportunities for community members and established artists to learn, share, and preserve Plena together.

\$15,000

The Forum, Inc. (Organization)

St. Thomas, VI

Afro-Caribbean Traditions

Walking Together will significantly expand The Forum’s ability to present, teach, and celebrate Virgin Islands and diaspora traditions through new artist collaborations, enhanced community engagement, and strengthened cultural education initiatives.

\$50,000

Yemaya Rice-Jones (Individual)

St. Croix, VI

West African/Caribbean Fiber Arts

This grant will allow me to move forward with my life's work of sustaining and amplifying the various traditions of textile dying. I will be able to make meaningful connections with others in my island community and globally.

\$15,000

Black By God (Organization)

Princeton, WV

Independent Press, Black Appalachian Stories

Walking Together will deepen the Folk Reporters Program by grounding our storytelling in shared practice, trust, and cultural accountability, strengthening both the skills and relationships of community-based journalists. It will help our reporters move with intention—telling stories with their communities, not just about them.

\$50,000

L. Renée (Individual)

Mercer County, WV

Black Appalachian Storytelling, Oral History

I will use Walking Together funding toward travel and research costs to visit archives, libraries, and cultural institutions in Black Appalachian communities where my ancestors once lived, and to collect oral histories from elders in those communities. This critical support will also enable me to dedicate uninterrupted time to write new work, invest in better recording equipment, and help build a curated digital archive.

\$15,000

Mid-America Arts Alliance

Donna Shelton (Individual)

Jonesboro, AR

Oral History of African American Communities

The WTC grant will allow me to continue to work with the community to record, transcribe, and digitize oral histories, assist tradition bearers in their efforts and present oral histories to the public, and continue valuable outreach to students and the public through workshops and special events.

\$15,000

Tau Delta Pi Step Team at The Academies at Jonesboro High School (Organization)

Jonesboro, AR

Spirit Step Dance

Walking Together support will allow us to continue our Little Cane Step Academy, attend a HBCU college tour, and expand step teams within our junior high schools. This support will allow TDPi to continue to develop traditional artists and leaders who are community-minded individuals and keepers of valuable cultural heritage.

\$50,000

Valerie M. Mendoza (Individual)

Topeka, KS

Chicano Storytelling, Oral History

Walking Together will sustain my work recovering histories and traditions of my community in Kansas and it will allow me to pass down these stories to the next generation.

\$15,000

Diaspora Connections Unlimited Db a The Griot Museum of Black History (Organization)

St. Louis, MO

African American History

Walking Together funding will have a transformative impact on The Griot Museum's ability to strengthen its organizational infrastructure and support staff and other cultural workers who deliver the programs, that help grow and sustain our work beyond the grant year. The Walking Together grant will help The Griot transition from an organization that operates in survival mode to one that is clearly on a path of building long-term sustainability and ensuring our role as a vital cultural steward for decades to come.

\$50,000

Gregory Carroll (Individual)

Kansas City, MO

Jazz Music

The Walking Together grant will enable my work - as a jazz influencer - to continue to spread the gospel about the jazz tradition amongst a compendium of teaching and performing artists striving to keep the tradition alive. Notably, the funds will support my effort to provide educational clinics to high school and collegiate students in the Kansas City region; work closely with Kansas City Area Youth Jazz; and share the uniqueness of Kansas City jazz through performances of my Midnight Blue Jazz ensembles.

\$15,000

Mallika Madduri (Individual)

Omaha, NE

Indian Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi Dance

Walking Together funding will help us document Bharatanatyam performances, preserve oral histories from elders, train youth as cultural leaders, and bring South Indian classical arts to communities that rarely experience them—ensuring our traditions evolve with care and visibility.

\$15,000

The Whiteclay Makerspace (Organization)

Whiteclay, NE

Lakota Crafts, Community Development

The Walking Together support allows Whiteclay Makerspace to sustain and expand programs, resources, and opportunities for the Lakota community. This support directly enables the Makerspace to purchase materials and supplies for art training and instructional classes and workshops, provide honoraria for instructors, furnish and equip two classrooms, and offer financial assistance to participants who might otherwise be unable to attend.

\$50,000

Brit Hensel (Individual)

Tulsa, OK

Documentary Filmmaking, Cherokee Oral Storytelling, Language

Support from Walking Together will bring us one step closer to completing our feature film, *What She Carries*, while continuing to employ and empower Native women creatives. This funding will help ensure the voices, leadership, and teachings of Native birthworkers reach a wider audience, strengthening cultural continuity and leaving a lasting impact on women, families, and communities across Indian Country.

\$15,000

Project 2020 Foundation (Organization)

Boley, OK

Black Western, Rodeo Traditions

Walking Together funding will advance the restoration of Boley's historic landmarks and strengthen our cornerstone cultural events, expanding youth programs, tourism, and long-term community sustainability.

\$50,000

Brandi Waller-Pace (Individual)

Fort Worth, TX

American Old-Time Music

Walking Together funds will help me deepen my skills and resources as a practitioner, and support building capacity to ensure my work is consistent and steadily grows to reach more of my community.

\$15,000

Riyaaz Qawwali (Organization)

Houston, TX

Sufi Qawwali Music

We plan to teach more students music and culture classes, grow an online library of Qawwali music and stories, and create shows that bring people together and keep this tradition alive.

\$50,000

Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin (Organization)

Seguin, TX

Mexican Performing Arts Traditions

Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin will use Walking Together funds for community outreach and engagement, staff support, physical and operational infrastructure. We will also use the funds for long-term sustainability through strategic planning, evaluation, and for documenting systems which have proven to be effective over the past 43 years.

\$50,000

New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)

Pequeñas Ligas Hispanas de New Haven, Inc. (Organization)

New Haven, CT

Latin American/Hispanic Music Traditions

The Walking Together grant will increase the consistency, frequency and depth of our traditional music programming to the profound benefit of our community.

\$50,000

Rachna Agrawal (Individual)

Weatogue, CT

Indian Kathak Dance

The Walking Together funding will help me develop not just performers, but informed artists and future teachers who will carry the tradition of classical Indian dance forward with a deep sense of purpose, cultural fluency, and pride in their shared heritage.

\$15,000

Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc. (Organization)

Lowell, MA

Cambodian Traditional Dance

Walking Together support will allow us to increase teaching hours for a master artist, expanding youth access to Khmer performing arts and strengthening the intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge. This investment will deepen our organizational capacity, uplift underrepresented Cambodian American narratives, and ensure these traditions remain vibrant for future generations.

\$50,000

Veronica Robles (Individual)

Saugus, MA

Mariachi Music, Ballet Folklorico

I will use the Walking Together grant to recharge, reflect, restore my artistic well-being, connect with female mariachis nationwide for collaboration, and explore new performance opportunities beyond my region.

\$15,000

Ikirezi Multicultural Institute (Organization)

Auburn, ME

Burundian Dance, Craft, Kirundi Language

Walking Together funds will allow more children to participate in our program by removing financial barriers and expanding access to cultural dance education.

\$50,000

Theresa Secord (Individual)

Farmington, ME

Penobscot Basketmaking

The funding will help me continue to teach my apprentice the ancient art of Wabanaki ash and sweet grass basketry, who is in turn passing on the art to her granddaughter. It will enable me to purchase/stockpile ash wood, our primary weaving material from tribal wood harvesters in advance of the emerald ash borer beetle, which is killing all of the ash trees in Maine.

\$15,000

Positive Street Art (Organization)

Nashua, NH

Hip Hop Culture

With assistance from the Walking Together grant, Positive Street Art will be able to allocate resources in order to create more enrichment programming fostering cultural preservation for culturally representative dancing workshops and spoken word programs inclusive to youth and young adults. In addition, gallery exhibitions which center and amplify traditional and folk art practices in Black and Brown Communities that Positive Street Art coordinates, will be able to compensate lead curators and visiting artists.

\$50,000

Theophilus Martey (Individual)

Manchester, NH

Ghanaian/West African Drumming, Dance

Walking Together support will enable me to expand my capacity for documenting, teaching, and sharing traditional knowledge across generations. It will provide the resources needed to develop new workshops, produce high-quality educational materials, and deepen my research into ancestral practices and I will be able to document rituals, songs, and oral histories in formats that resonate with younger generations, while safeguarding the authenticity of our practices.

\$15,000

Rhode Island Kung Fu & Lion Dance Club (Organization)

Providence, RI

Chinese Lion Dance

Walking Together funding will allow us to more securely invest in our people and programs. This support will strengthen our organization and ensure that lion dance remains vibrant, sustainable, and a continued source of cultural pride for our local community for years to come.

\$50,000

Sidy Maiga (Individual)

Providence, RI

West African Djembe Drumming, Malian Traditions

Walking Together funding will enable me to strengthen my role as a tradition bearer by expanding my West African youth program and securing the resources necessary to produce my next traditional album.

\$15,000

Madison Murphy Barney (Individual)

Middlesex, VT

Indigenous Storytelling

Walking Together funding will support me to model sustainable Indigenous cultural work while strengthening partnerships that integrate traditional ways of knowing into contemporary systems.

\$15,000

Shidaa Projects, Inc. (Organization)

Montpelier, VT

West African Traditions

Walking Together support will help us expand our educational offerings including our summer camp. It will allow Shidaa the freedom to recruit new players with experience in West African rhythms and increase the reach of our performances.

\$50,000

South Arts

Sew Gee's Bend Heritage Builders (Organization)

Boykin, AL

Gee's Bend Quilting

The most immediate benefit to Sew Gee's Bend Heritage Builders is the ability to retain talented leadership with deep ties to the community by phasing in a salaried executive director position and preventing the brain drain so often associated with remote communities that seem to present few opportunities. The ability to maintain the extraordinary programs already underway in a community most would describe as "under resourced" while adding new infrastructure and avenues for growth represents an enormous opportunity to benefit a community that has persevered through centuries of hardship to create works that testify to the endurance of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

\$50,000

Community Arts And Culture, Inc. (Organization)

Tavernier, FL

Afro-Cuban Traditions

Funding will sustain as well as strengthen the very programs most aligned with Walking Together's mission, and our organization as a whole. For CAC, this investment will stabilize our infrastructure and staff capacity, allowing us to focus resources on sustaining mentorship and documentation programs rather than continually piecing together short-term funding.

\$50,000

Marlene Jones (Individual)

East Point, GA

Gee's Bend Quilting

Teaching quilting is an important way I can keep alive the lives and the stories of those I learned from. Walking Together funding will provide me and my community a way to expose more people who have interest in our work, in our history and in our future of Gee's Bend Alabama.

\$15,000

Wontanara, Inc. (Organization)

Atlanta, GA

West African Dance, Drumming

Walking Together will help us turn our center into a true home for our cultural community and youth. With this added support, we can grow our impact, strengthen our relationships and reach, and create meaningful exhibits, events, performances, programs, youth care, and an accessible online resource center that our community can trust and feel proud of.
\$50,000

The Smoketown Percussion Institute, Inc. (Organization)

Louisville, KY

Black Drum Line

We will use Walking Together to build an institution which focuses on changing lives through arts, culture, and education enhancement.
\$50,000

Aaron Hartley (Individual)

New Orleans, LA

New Orleans Black Masking Indian Traditions

Walking Together will allow me to expand my cultural work through multimedia performance, youth apprenticeship, and the development of a year-round cultural arts hub in New Orleans. With sustained support, I can grow a team, travel, and scale my work without compromising cultural integrity.
\$15,000

Second Line Arts Collective (Organization)

New Orleans, LA

Black American/New Orleans Music Traditions

Walking Together will provide critical operational support to Second Line Arts Collective by helping preserve and evolve the rich tradition of New Orleans music through education, community engagement, and cultural stewardship.
\$50,000

Jimmy Holmes (Individual)

Benton, MS

Benton-Style Blues Music

I will use Walking Together funds to continue providing free blue music to the public (including the annual Benton Blues Festival and dozens of smaller events), working with apprentices eager to learn the Benton Blues, and maintaining the Blue Front Cafe which is a hub for my community (local, national and international).

\$15,000

TruCulture Community (Organization)

Hattiesburg, MS

Afro-Caribbean Diaspora Foodways

Walking Together support will directly strengthen our team, ensure fair compensation, and sustain the ancestral traditions at the heart of our work.

\$50,000

Mā hñākihu Language Preservation Project (Organization)

Asheville, NC

Mexican Hñāhñu Language, Traditions

Walking Together funding will bring consistency to our community because we can sustain the programming we have, engage more people, grow the use of our language multigenerationally, and continue to make our culture visible, celebrated, and honored.

\$50,000

Tara McCoy (Individual)

Qualla Boundary, NC

Cherokee Pottery, Other Craft

The funds from Walking Together will help me grow from individual artist to a sustainable community resource. I will be able to secure storage for class materials/supplies and finished pottery. With remaining funds left over, it will go to class/workshops allowing me to build new skills I can share with my students.

\$15,000

Aaron Baumgardner (Individual)

Rock Hill, SC

Catawba Pottery, Basketmaking

With Walking Together funding, I can invest in a dedicated studio space that enables year-round creation and meaningful teaching. This support would mark a turning point in my career and help ensure that Catawba basketry continues through mentorship and community collaboration.

\$15,000

Peculiar Pig Farm (Organization)

Dorchester, SC

Gullah Agriculture, Foodways

Walking Together funding will allow us to transform our grassroots efforts into a sustainable, community-centered program that expands food relief, builds teaching spaces, preserves heritage skills, and supports youth training in agriculture and culinary arts. With stronger infrastructure, equipment, and staffing, we can deepen partnerships across the region and continue passing on the traditions, stories, and generosity that define Peculiar Pig Farm.

\$50,000

Cazateatro Bilingual Theater Group (Organization)

Memphis, TN

Dia de los Muertos Traditions, Bilingual Theatre

Walking Together support will enhance our ability to deliver high-impact bilingual theatre and cultural education programs, expanding our reach to schools and underserved communities.

\$50,000

Marico Flake (Individual)

Cordova, TN

Memphis Jookin Dance

Walking Together will allow me to expand Memphis Jookin as both an artistic practice and a cultural lineage, giving me the support to train new students, build community pathways, and deepen the preservation of our movement language. This funding strengthens my ability to sustain the work, grow my teaching network, and continue sharing the spirit of Memphis with new generations.

\$15,000