

## **Sound Walk September 2021**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

19<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **Sound Walk September Launches with Most Ambitious Programme Yet**

Sound Walk September 2021 is hosting its most ambitious programme yet. The global month-long festival of sound walking begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and culminates with the Sound Walk September Award. With events in dozens of countries, the organisers look forward to more and more artists and members of the public to get involved, seizing the opportunity to explore walking as an art form.

During the Covid pandemic, as individuals have experienced lockdown and restrictions, there has been a growing focus on local walking routes, and using walking as exercise and for exploration. The Sound Walk September team hope this expanded interest in, and appreciation of, local areas and walking will attract new participants and creators to the month-long event.

Sound Walk September is organised by walk · listen · create, which hopes to grow engagement and interest in walking as an art form. One of the festival's co-producers, Babak Fakhmzadeh, explained, 'Walking as an art form may sound ambitious, but walking is accessible to everyone. It's easy to get involved and it can be very rewarding.'

He continued, 'We are sometimes asked how a sound walk differs from a podcast. A podcast is usually one piece or story that you listen to, from start to finish. By contrast, a soundwalk is a collection. You might unlock audio by moving through space, as sound walks often are connected to place. They're dynamic and can change every time.'

Sound Walk September recognises that there will be many newcomers to walking who are searching for a new way to engage with their surroundings and to enhance their walking experience. A sound walk is the perfect solution. Further, there will be artists who want to produce art, rooted in their walking experience, their environment, or in the physical act of moving from place to place.

Babak explains, 'Sound walks are a great way to demystify and democratise art. You can take part in your local area. You can attend an event scheduled in a physical space alongside other participants. You can download a walk and do it at a time of your choosing. Or you can attend one of the online events.'

There are a wide variety of events to choose from and most are suitable for all ages. The walks often act as a starting point to explore a range of issues from global technology to ecology. There are also events focused on encouraging young people to consider outdoor activities. For budding writers, the Shoreline series takes inspiration from where water meets land in particular, and the natural world in general.

With such a varied programme, there are lots of opportunities to get involved. A particular highlight this year is 'Sound Walk City · prelude' set in Slovenia. Ljubljana is hosting a far-reaching series of events as a pilot for a wider Sound Walk City scheme which takes its cue from the concept of the European City of Culture programme. It is expected that each year, a different city will be awarded the Sound Walk City mantle to provide a focal point for all the best that sound walks can offer.

Babak concludes, 'I'm particularly excited about Sound Walk City · prelude. It's a great opportunity to put people in nature and allow them to use technology to enhance that experience. With COVID, we hosted a lot of Sound Walk September online, in 2020, but this year we can move into the physical

world and Sound Walk City explores the full potential of combining the different disciplines, formats and locations.’

If you would like to get involved or find out more, visit <https://walklistencreate.org/> or contact Andrew Stuck, [andrew@walklistencreate.org](mailto:andrew@walklistencreate.org), +44 (0)772 5555460; Geert Vermeire, [geert@walklistencreate.org](mailto:geert@walklistencreate.org), +32 483121133; Babak Fakhmzadeh, [babak@walklistencreate.org](mailto:babak@walklistencreate.org), +55 11 99216 5257. Photographs are available at <https://walklistencreate.org/>

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Interactive map and full list of eligible pieces: <https://walklistencreate.org/walkingpiece/>
2. For the public, there are three different ways to get involved:
  - a. In-situ pieces - These are timetabled pieces which take place at a physical location
  - b. Downloadable sound walks - These can be downloaded and undertaken at a time of the walker’s choosing
  - c. Online events - these events have a nominal fee and range from group discussions to artist-hosted talks and hands-on workshops.
3. For artists, there are four ways to get involved:
  - a. Submit a piece to the walk · listen · create platform
  - b. Host a timetabled sound walk event in a physical location
  - c. Host or participate in an online event
  - d. Enter the Sound Walk September Award

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **What is a sound walk?**

A sound walk, or walking piece, is any walk that focuses on listening to the environment, with or without the use of technology, or adds to the experience through the use of sound or voice. This can include a scripted or choreographed score or work that has additional audio elements.

### **Who are walk · listen · create?**

Walk · listen · create is the home of walking artists and artist walkers. The core team consists of Andrew Stuck, Geert Vermeire and Babak Fakhamzadeh. Andrew Stuck, founder of the Museum of Walking - UK, [andrew@walklistencreate.org](mailto:andrew@walklistencreate.org), +44 (0)772 555460. Geert Vermeire, founder of Made of Walking - Belgium, [geert@walklistencreate.org](mailto:geert@walklistencreate.org), +32 483121133, skype: geert.vermeire. Babak Fakhamzadeh, award winning app developer - Brazil, [babak@walklistencreate.org](mailto:babak@walklistencreate.org), +55 11 99216 5257.

### **What does walk · listen · create do?**

walk · listen · create brings together artists who walk, and provides a place for walking artists to share their work, thoughts, websites, online presence, pieces, and events.

walk · listen · create also hosts a bi-weekly walk · listen · café, where artists in the fields of sound- and walking-arts discuss their work in an open forum.

### **History of walk · listen · create and the Museum of Walking**

It was at the Banff Centre in the Canadian Rockies on a Walking and Art Residency in 2007 that an idea of a museum dedicated solely to walking and art was developed by Andrew Stuck. The museum would be a showpiece for events around walking. It would promote walking and it would promote art and creativity and bring the two together. We chose to broaden it by inviting co-creators to work together to create a variety of different walking opportunities.

Our intention has always been to encourage people to dip their toes into trying new things, out and about on foot, giving them the chance of being more creative – “the art is in taking part”.

## **INFORMATION FOR ARTISTS**

### **How to submit pieces to walk-listen-create**

Walking pieces and events can be submitted at all times: <https://walklistencreate.org/include-your-website/>

### **What are the Sound Walk September Awards?**

The Sound Walk September Awards celebrate the skills of those composing audio, listening, and sound walks.

Deliberately left as open as possible to encourage creativity, any walking piece of any duration created during the previous 12 months, after the end of the previous year's Sound Walk September, and submitted to the walk · listen · create website, is eligible. In addition, all participating events held during this year's Sound Walk September are eligible.

Work can include a variety of formats, approaches, and subjects, from a wide range of creative disciplines, including arts, heritage and history, health and wellbeing, social practices, journalism, performance, literature and theatre, ecology, tourism, and more.

From the body of submitted work, walk · listen · create abstracts a short-list of walking pieces, which is announced soon after the end of September. From this shortlist the Sound Walk September Advisory Board chooses the winners of the Sound Walk September Award, based on a loosely defined set of criteria.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - PHOTOGRAPHS**

Most photographs on the sound-walk-create website are available via a Creative Commons license and can be used in articles with proper attribution.

Further photographs are available on request from Babak Fakhmzadeh, [babak@walklistencreate.org](mailto:babak@walklistencreate.org), +55 11 99216 5257.