



# OUR ROAD HOME

>  
**PROJECT  
SUPPORT  
PROPOSAL**

# SUMMARY

Our Road Home is a multidisciplinary initiative that uses performance, visual art and immersive storytelling to explore how communities foster freedom, healing, and belonging. It sparks vital conversations about care, autonomy, and resilience while supporting artists and local cultural ecosystems.

## PROJECT IMPACT

- ARTIST SUPPORT
- COMMUNITY-BUILDING
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- ARTS INNOVATION

## TOP GIVING CIRCLES

**\$19,000 The Roadmakers**

**\$10,019 The Wayfinders**

**\$6,019 The Groundbuilders**

**\$1,900 The Steppers**

## ABOUT

Our Road Home is a multidisciplinary cultural initiative that uses performance, visual art, and immersive storytelling to explore how communities create space for freedom, healing, and belonging. At its core, the project asks: What does it mean to build a world where people can live freely—not just survive, but thrive?

This work is both artistic and civic in nature. It engages the public in vital conversations about autonomy, care, and collective resilience—while also supporting the economic and creative ecosystems of artists, cultural workers, and local communities.

## WHY IT MATTERS

- › **Creates meaningful work opportunities for artists and culture workers**
- › **Strengthens community through shared creative experiences**
- › **Invites the public into vital conversations about care, possibility, and the future**
- › **Models new ways to use art as a tool for healing and transformation**

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

There's something sacred about beginnings. That moment when a vision takes its first breath – when it moves from idea to action. For me, Our Road Home is that moment.

This project marks the start of a creative journey years in the making. Right now, we are laying the foundation for something much bigger than performance. We are building a creative universe where freedom, healing, and cultural memory live side by side.

While this may be a new beginning, I do not arrive here empty-handed. My career has been rooted in the use of movement, rhythm, and story to explore culture in ways that are deeply human and widely resonant. From international stages to community centers, I've led works that celebrate tradition while pushing boundaries – because I believe art should do both.

Now, I'm asking you to join me.

This project will live in movement, in image, in voice, and in community. But it needs something else to take shape: it needs belief. It needs backing. When you give to this campaign, you're standing beside us as we open the door and take a sure-footed first step.

If you're reading this, you've also taken a step toward something important. I invite you to walk a little farther with us.

With gratitude,  
Jakari Sherman  
Creative Director, Our Road Home



## Creative Director Jakari Sherman

Jakari Sherman is a visionary director, choreographer, and ethnochoreologist whose work bridges tradition and innovation. Widely recognized as the world's first modern stepping choreographer, he has pioneered the integration of percussive dance with storytelling, technology, and music to create bold, full-length concert productions.

As the former Artistic Director of Step Afrika! and the creative force behind acclaimed works such as *Drumfolk* and *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*, Jakari has led performances across national stages and international platforms. In 2022 launched Company XV, the first fully virtual dance ensemble.

He holds a Master's in Ethnochoreology from the University of Limerick and continues to explore stepping's history and structure through research, performance, and public engagement. Jakari's creative leadership is globally recognized, and in 2025 he was awarded a MacDowell Fellowship for his continued contributions to culture-based storytelling.

# UPCOMING ACTIVATIONS



## JUNE 4-29

Our Road Home will be activated as an augmented reality experience within *Lullabies Through Time*, a site-responsive experience designed to bridge past, present, and future – tracing the enduring legacies of racialized systems of control and confinement, in order to reclaim public spaces as sites of healing, reconnection, and future-building.



## JUNE 20

As we mark the 160th anniversary of the founding of Freedmen's Town, Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy presents the world premiere of the Our Road Home interactive rhythmic performance. This new work explores the implications of a new free life and the cultural fertility of this community. The work features dance, music, song and more in celebrating the building of a community, the strength of its people, and freedom as a way of life.

## IN-THE-WORKS

Collaboration with composer and sound artist, Finola Merivale on a new orchestral work, *Freedom Movement*, exploring the musicality of dance and ritual movement practices.

# GIVING CIRCLES

## \$19,000 - The Roadmakers

**Our visionary leaders. Roadmakers lay the foundation for this journey, anchoring the work with transformative generosity.**

- Personalized video thank-you message from Jakari and key artists
- Inclusion as a Founding Roadmaker on all future project materials (print & digital)
- One-of-a-kind commissioned art object inspired by the project
- Access to an annual private vision update and strategy session with the creative team

## \$10,019 - The Wayfinders

**Guides and navigators. Wayfinders help chart the path forward, supporting creative direction, expansion, and depth.**

- Limited edition creative journal featuring behind-the-scenes sketches, poems, and notes
- Personalized audio reflection from a member of the creative team
- Acknowledgment on the website and in select digital publications
- Early access to creative content drops (videos, writings, music samples)

# GIVING CIRCLES

## **\$6,019 - The Groundbuilders**

**Rooted supporters who ensure we have the space, structure, and stability to grow and thrive.**

- Custom printed Our Road Home poster
- Recognition in project media (digital or print) as a Groundbuilder
- Quarterly "notes from the road" PDF update with reflective essays and progress imagery
- Access to an exclusive digital archive of process photos, sketches, and writings

## **\$1,900 - The Steppers**

**Every step matters. Steppers move in rhythm with the work, helping us progress with consistency and care.**

- Personalized postcard featuring project imagery
- Name listed on the Step Wall - a virtual wall of supporters
- Invitation to participate in a virtual story circle to contribute to the project

# GIVING CIRCLES

## ADDITIONAL GIVING CIRCLES

AVAILABLE via INDIEGOGO at <https://igg.me/at/ourroadhome>

### \$619 - The Keepers

Keepers hold space—preserving memory, practice, and intention. Their support sustains our momentum.

### \$190 - The Carriers

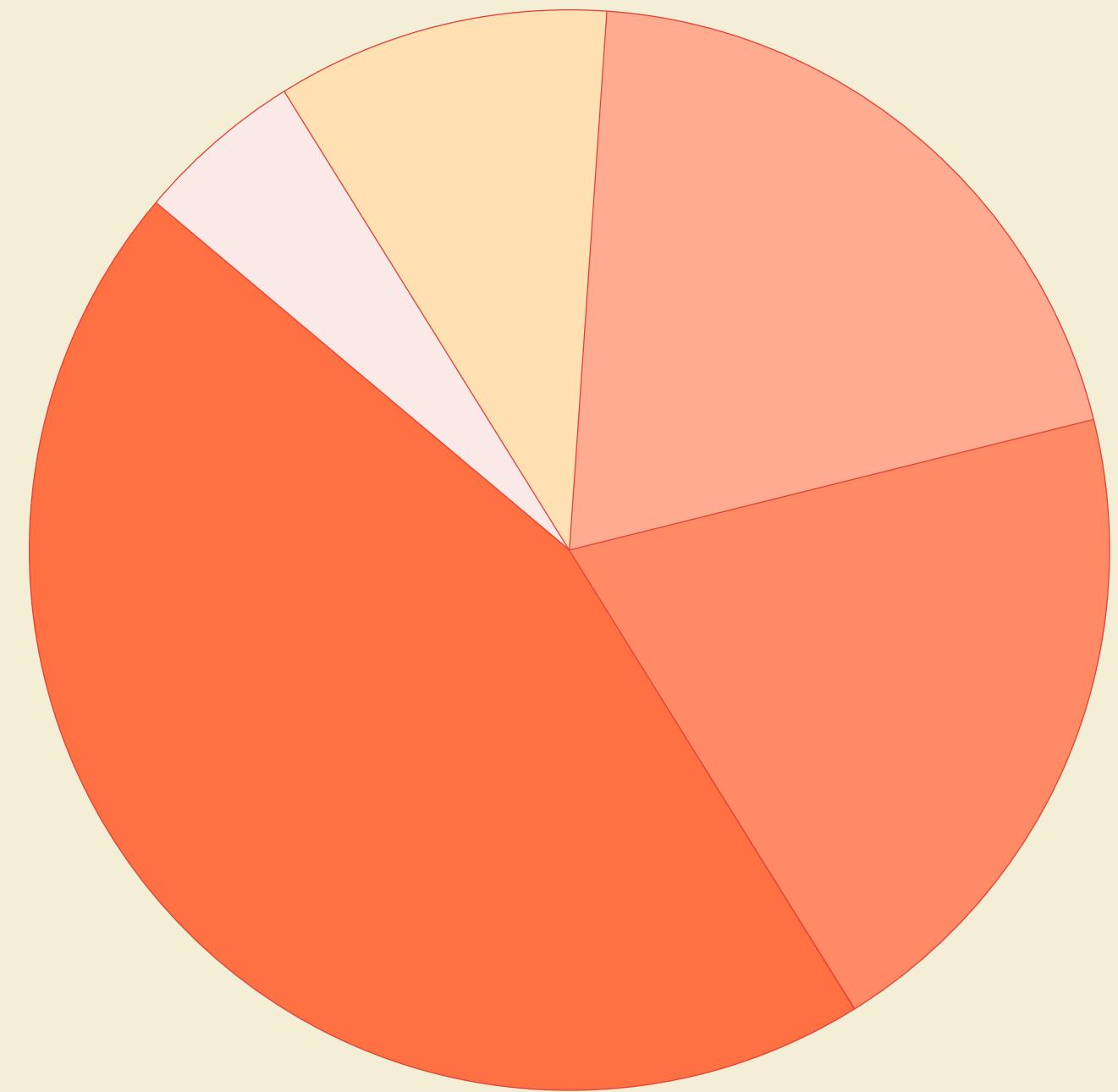
Carriers help lift the load. Their contributions move the vision forward, one generous act at a time.

### \$19 - The Sparks

Sparks light the way, showing that collective energy creates lasting impact.

# WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES

Your donation powers the people, tools, and environments needed to bring Our Road Home to life. Here's how your gift makes an impact:



## **Artist Compensation - 45%**

We pay artists fairly for their time, creativity, and labor. This includes performers, designers, musicians, researchers, and collaborators who bring the vision to life.

## **Space & Infrastructure - 20%**

Covers rehearsal space, studio time, venue rentals, and the physical environments where the work is created and shared. This also includes digital infrastructure like website, communication tools, and documentation platforms.

## **Production & Materials - 20%**

Lighting, costumes, props, fabrication, sound, and all the tools needed to realize immersive performances and installations with care and excellence.

## **Community Engagement - 10%**

Supports public-facing activities such as storytelling activations, creative prompts, online content, educational materials, and participation opportunities.

## **Administrative & Operational Support - 5%**

Back-end work that keeps the project moving—like budgeting, scheduling, documentation, and collaboration tools.



# OUR ROAD HOME

Let's create  
something  
special  
together!



## CONTACT

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