



Wendy Landman

Andrew Stuck was attending the *Made of Walking* gathering of artists at La Romieu in remote south west France, when Andrew was surprised to meet American walking activist **Wendy Landman**, executive director of **WalkBoston**, America's longest running pedestrian advocacy group. She is here, on an invitation from her college friend and artist Carol Mancke. Wendy discovers that the walking artists at *Made of Walking* are grappling with many of the issues that *WalkBoston* has encountered too. In the blazing sun, they walk along gravel paths, seeking shade, and discuss how walking and pleasurable walkable places are now seen as key elements of quality of life for increasing numbers of Americans. And how through subtle change in vocabulary, from talking about art to talking about delight - the delight of walking and of delightful places - hearts and minds of politicians can be won over to the cause of better conditions for those of us who travel on foot. 25'21" 11.9MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded on a walk at Made of Walking in La Romieu, south west France in September 2017 <http://www.themilena.com/made-of-walking> . Published in April 2018 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

WalkBoston <http://walkboston.org/> was formed in 1990 and is America's oldest pedestrian advocacy group, and here is some detail of Wendy Landman and her role and influence there: <http://walkboston.org/people/wendy-landman> WalkBoston works with communities across the state of Massachusetts.

As the population ages, increasing numbers of communities including rural ones, are becoming interested in how they can make their centres and neighbourhoods more walkable. A key thrust of what WalkBoston is doing they call "constituency building". One technique is to take people out on walk audits, to look at where people walk and want to walk, and teach local residents to become pedestrian advocates themselves.

Wendy came to La Romieu and the Made of Walking event on the invitation of her college artist friend, Carol Mancke: <http://machinaloci.com/>

Although not immediately obvious the connection between a gathering of walking artists and a pedestrian advocate from a major metropolitan city in the US, Wendy had found that there were many more connections between the Made of Walking event and her own work in Boston - not least that artists were drawing attention to the fact that walking and good walking environments are essential to quality of life, especially as one grows older. WalkBoston is thinking through what it means if you measure quality of life in terms of delight at the opportunities to walk more - where art might be seen as a barrier, delightful places are an invitation.

Christo <http://christojeanneclaude.net/> and the magic of the ephemeral

WalkBoston has been lobbying for slower speeds in residential roads for many years, and a change in state legislation has provided an opportunity for them to work with many communities to make changes - this in part has led a widespread adoption of 'complete street' policies: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/what-are-complete-streets/>

Wendy sits on the Board of America Walks: <http://americawalks.org/>



Wendy's recommendation for a walk in Boston:

If you are in Boston and what to see something relatively new - try a walk on the 'Greenway' through downtown: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_Fitzgerald_Kennedy_Greenway - created in part through the 'Big Dig' <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/TheBigDig.aspx> Also the New Charles River Basin and its associated metropolitan parks <https://www.asla.org/guide/site.aspx?id=40350> and the Zakim Bridge https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_P._Zakim_Bunker_Hill_Memorial_Bridge

She could also take you to a neighbourhood with crummy road traffic safety conditions for pedestrians at intersections - alas there are several of those but Wendy declines to name any of them.