

**Chris Walker**  
**Impact 2030**  
**2020-21 update**

The first year of the Impact 2030 support was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many plans for work development and presentation were put on hold. At the time of this writing on July 31, professional theatres in NYC remain closed. With the increase in vaccinations in April and May of 2021, many local producers started to transform outdoor spaces to temporary performance spaces where audiences and artists could gather safely. Impact 2030 funds allowed me to co-produce and develop work for one such space, as well as travel to elders and founders of Jamaican concert dance. The archive project was significant as only two of the founders are still alive today, and the pandemic made this documentation urgent. This trip would have been impossible without the Impact 2030 funds, which also allowed me to co-produce “Eat Little & Live Long” with Makeda Thomas in Brooklyn, NYC. This series features 16 contemporary dance artists over 3 months (June - August)

1. Jamaican Dance & Culture Archives -video interviews with: Marjorie Whyllie, Barbara Requa, Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, Maria Smith, Maria Hitchins, Marvin George
2. D-Archival project - a digital archive of the research work of early scholars at the Cultural Training Centre in Kingston Jamaica. That work is currently underway with some interviews with ethnomusicologists and folk researchers completed. The list of experts interviewed already include Marjorie Whyllie, Fae Ellington, Maria Smith, Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, Marvin George and Maria Hitchins. I will be returning to interview Barbara Requa this summer (she was admitted to the hospital the time of the last visit). This work is urgent, as many of the founders of the CTC have passed.
3. Rent A Tile Duets is an invitation to express love. This work is an installation that runs all summer in NYC and invites couples to step onto a 24 by 24 tile to express love through movement to their favorite music. The installation is a part of a larger video project that is being developed with dancers who are couples and features dance couples from Jamaica, Dominica, and New York City.
4. Facing Home: Climate Justice - this project is ongoing. Walker traveled to Jamaica with a filmmaker to capture footage and stories for the video parts of the work. The project will include live performance with virtual reality interactions.
5. Rent-A-Tile Installation is an invitation to express love. It can be easily thought of as the first dance a couple makes during a wedding - an act of love and expression done in public view, in front of friends and family. Partners are invited to select their favorite song and dance together on a 24'by24' tile. The entire moment must happen on the designed tile and each couple is invited to use the tile as a portal for the journey they go on together. The installation was housed in June and July as a part of “Eat Little & Live Long” and each week different couples journeyed through the tiles. The installation was also presented in Madison WI on August 7 and in Hartford CT for Aug 14, 2021. Impact 2030 funds were used to support local artists who were commissioned to create the designed tiles for the Madison installation.
6. Rent-A-Tile Duets is a series of performance works developed by dancing couples. These are couples who are also professional dance / movement artists and who have a unique knowledge of each other's bodies. The first in the series was developed by

Guy Thorne and N’Jelle Gage and premiered at Eat Little & Live Long as a virtual performance from Dominica with live audience engagement in NYC on July 3

7. Impact 2030 is also partially supporting “only mountains and rivers remain” - a larger site specific to video performance work that is being developed in collaboration with Makeda Thomas for 2022 filming and release.
8. Seaweed King 2021 is a manifestation of a character I created in collaboration with Laura Anderson Barbata to address climate change. I used the character to create a new experience for Eat Little & Live Long audiences with a new choreography responsive to the very visible death around us because of the Covid-19 pandemic, juxtaposed with the character’s traditional role of carrying extinct species.