

PERFORMING OUR FUTURE

A multiracial coalition of rural and urban communities, working through culture to build power and wealth. Our goal is a future where everyone belongs and everyone's contribution matters — where together, **we own what we make.**



Delegation leaders, guests, and Appalshop/Roadside Theater staff at the end of the first Performing Our Future national coalition meeting in Uniontown, Alabama, July 2018.

We represent diverse regions, histories, and perspectives. At the same time, our communities share a legacy of resisting exploitation, deindustrialization, and displacement. Together we are creating a future on our own terms by building on the practices that have sustained our resistance:

1. **Grassroots cultural work** is how a community tells its own story and makes meaning together, through its material, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual traditions and features.
2. **Broad-based community organizing** is how a community builds its own power to act together across divides, advances shared interests, and overcomes shared challenges.
3. **Community wealth creation** is how a community develops its own economy through recognizing its latent assets and turning them into shared value.

Performing Our Future was initiated by **Roadside Theater**, the theater division of the grassroots cultural center **Appalshop**. Performing Our Future emerged out of Roadside and Appalshop's decades of community cultural development residencies across the country and internationally. Roadside and Appalshop continue to play a leadership role in the national coalition.

For more information, visit our website (performingourfuture.com) or contact lead organizer Ben Fink (benfink@appalshop.org).