



In cooperation with performances and residencies by the **Hot 8 Brass Band**, *Finding Our Folk* is a multi-faceted national tour using cultural expression and the voices of Katrina and Rita survivors to help people from different backgrounds and communities find common ground. Since 2005, the tour has gathered and shared stories and artistry from the Gulf Coast diaspora in an effort to connect youth and elders to the kindred traditions, narratives and talents found in marginalized communities across the country. Infused with the spirit and heritage of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the continuing journey to find our folk has been profoundly healing and transformative for many. *Finding Our Folk* is funded by The Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health, The 21st Century Foundation, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, and The Ford Foundation. All activities (outside of performances and residencies by the **Hot 8 Brass Band**) are coordinated with the local communities and fully funded by *Finding Our Folk*.

Who we are:

Katrina Rita Ville Express

The KRV Express is an interpretive art piece and mobile outdoor theater currently touring the US on behalf of survivors, activists and grassroots groups who have combined their voices to educate and advocate for complete and equitable recovery. Featuring music, video, cuisine and speakers from dozens of gulf coast communities, the 32' long FEMA trailer (just like those intended for survivors) has anchored *Katrina Rita Ville* - a temporary landmark and energized meeting place – in diverse locations across America.

Young People

Encouraging youth to create new cultural expressions while inheriting the stewardship of older and deeper traditions, *Finding Our Folk* provides a multicultural and interactive space for young people, elders and survivors to heal, transform, and empower one another. Cultivating their voice and artistry amid turbulence and the rich convergence of humanity, initiated by disaster, the creative contributions of our young people have become increasingly central to local, national and global dialogues about our human family's shared condition and future.

What we do:

Educational Workshops – Music, Art/Culture, Environment, Community Organizing

Speakers – We offer a roster of speakers and artists from the Katrina-Rita diaspora whose stories dramatize the interplay of culture, environment, justice and change in the Gulf South.

Film Screenings - Finding Our Folk tells the story of young people, who after the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina organized themselves, other students, artists and community members from around the country to document and share the stories of Katrina survivors. Other films available for screening: *Cut Off*, *Turkey Creek*, *The New Homeless*, *Stardust and Empty Wagons*.

Where:

Tour activities can take place in community spaces (commons, parks, social centers), neighborhood blocks, schools, classrooms, universities, theaters and other performing arts venues.

Why:

The Gulf Coast disaster, diaspora, and recovery are a unified social, cultural and environmental crisis of unrivaled magnitude in American history. As such, they have inspired survivors and observers of all ages and backgrounds to creatively express themselves in ways that have uplifted and transformed people across the region and beyond. The *Finding Our Folk* Tour deliberately connects individuals and expressions from these inspiring communities to the larger human family – a community for whom healing is no less urgent, profound, or dependent upon the universal thread of culture.

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