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.

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](http://performingourfuture.com)) or contact lead organizer Ben Fink ([benfink@appalshop.org](mailto:benfink@appalshop.org)).