



For Immediate Release
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AMAL WALKS ACROSS AMERICA AND STOPS IN ST. LOUIS
ONE LITTLE GIRL. ONE BIG HOPE.

June 6, 2023 – Little Amal, the internationally celebrated 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl who has been welcomed by more than 250 uniquely created artistic events across the globe since she set out on her initial 5,000-mile trek across Europe in 2021, will embark on an epic 6,000-mile journey across the United States beginning in September with a stop in St. Louis on October 1.

Saint Louis native, [Dr. Philip A. Woodmore](#), a nationally recognized, accomplished vocal performer, is excited to lead the St. Louis team that will bring Little Amal to the Arch Grounds on October 1st. Dr. Woodmore has been collaborating with the national creative team for the past four months and has built a local committee including the International Institute, the St. Louis Mosaic Project, COCA – Center of Creative Arts, and local artistic and philanthropic leaders who are excited to welcome this national symbol of hope and humanity to our vibrant community. More details on the October 1st event will be released in the coming weeks.

“I wasn’t sure what I was signing up for when I was tapped to lead this effort, but once I learned about Little Amal’s origin story and talked with local experts at the International Institute and the St. Louis Mosaic Project about our region’s long history of welcoming refugees and immigrants, I couldn’t wait to start planning an event that will engage the entire community,” said Dr. Woodmore.

“What a beautiful and unique opportunity to continue the important conversation about immigration in a city that has welcomed immigrants from around the world for 100 years,” said Arrey Obenson, Pres. & CEO of the International Institute. “We are so pleased to collaborate with Dr. Woodmore on this important event.”

Little Amal STL visit
Add One

One element that will be front and center during Little Amal's visit will be music. Dr. Woodmore would like to build an intergenerational choir and is looking for local students and others of all ages for this event. Music teachers and other singers who love community engagement can contact Dr. Woodmore directly at woodmore@gmail.com.

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About Little Amal

Amal is inspired by a character in **Joe Murphy** and **Joe Robertson**'s play *The Jungle*, about a refugee camp in Calais, France. *The Walk 2021* was a co-production with Good Chance Theatre. Over nine weeks this fall, Amal will join 1,500-plus artists at more than 100 artistic events across 35 towns and cities. The nationwide journey will begin in Boston, MA on September 7 and culminate on November 5 in San Diego, CA. Additional details will be available over the summer, and updated frequently, at WalkWithAmal.org. *Amal Walks Across America* is produced by [The Walk Productions](http://TheWalkProductions.com) in association with Handspring Puppet Company.