



# The New Metropolis

A video documentary series about rebuilding America's older cities and suburbs

Produced and Directed by Andrea Torrice

## New public television documentary series highlights critical issues facing America's "first" suburbs

America's "first" suburbs, those suburban communities built next to America's urban centers, were once the birthplace of the American Dream. Driven by a desire to escape the smokestacks of the central cities, and a housing shortage following World War II, thousands of suburban homes were rapidly constructed and middle class families flocked to fill them.

Sixty years later, many of these original suburbs are facing a crisis: a dwindling tax base, population and business loss, decaying infrastructure, increased racial tensions and white flight. Lacking policies to help reverse these trends, many towns are looking for strategies for revitalization.

Using compelling, personal stories as the thread to highlight these important issues, award-winning filmmaker Andrea Torrice has crafted two new half-hour documentaries:

- **A Crack In the Pavement** unravels the national infrastructure and regional land use policy debate through the stories of two first suburban public officials from southern Ohio. Starting with a short history of Eisenhower era policies, the program chronicles some of the policy issues that prevent revitalization. The film then points towards possible solutions through balanced growth and regional cooperation strategies. Narrated by actor **Peter Coyote**, the film also includes commentary from Myron Orfield, Bruce Katz, Dr. Carla Chifos and Kim Gibson. 27 minutes.
- **The New Neighbors** tells the inspiring story of two ordinary people, one black and one white, who made racial integration the centerpiece of revitalizing Pennsauken New Jersey, a first suburban town of Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey. Working with an integration specialist, the documentary shows how the town council and residents implemented a unique strategy of "stable integration" in their housing market. Pennsauken has become one of the most vibrant, integrated towns in the country. Narrated by Academy Award-nominated actress **Ruby Dee**, the documentary includes original archival materials along with expert commentary from David Rusk and Angela Glover Blackwell. 27 minutes.

**For more information** about community screening opportunities and upcoming public television broadcasts, visit [www.thenewmetropolis.com](http://www.thenewmetropolis.com). To purchase copies, visit [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com).

**Educational Distributor:** Bullfrog Films [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com)

**Made possible by** The Ford Foundation, The Surdna Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The William Penn Foundation, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Sponsored by The Center for Independent Documentary.

### Special Thanks to our Advisors and Strategic Partners:

American Planning Association, Ohio Chapter  
The Brookings Institution  
Carl Anthony  
Citizens for Civic Renewal  
Earth House Center  
First Suburbs Consortium of Ohio

Fund for an OPEN Society  
Greater Ohio  
Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State University  
National League of Cities First Suburbs Committee  
Northeast-Midwest Institute

PolicyLink  
Smart Growth America  
Southeast Pennsylvania First Suburbs Project  
Ten Thousand Friends of Pennsylvania