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PRESS Release

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Suburban Issues are Focus of New Documentary

***The New Metropolis* documentary film, and local TPT program highlight issues facing Twin Cities suburbs**

"The New Metropolis" and "New Metropolis Minnesota" program to air on Twin Cities Public TV at 8 p.m., Sunday, May 1, 2011 and rebroadcast Sunday, May 8 at 12 p.m.

The New Metropolis, a documentary film which examines the rise, fall and possible rebirth of America's suburban towns, airs on Twin Cities Public Television at 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. A one-hour local companion program ***New Metropolis Minnesota***, which features Twin Cities suburban issues, will follow at 9 p.m. Both programs will be rebroadcast on Sunday, May 8 and 12:00 and 1:00 p.m..

The New Metropolis, produced by award-winning filmmaker Andrea Torrice, is the first public examination of issues facing America's older, "first ring" suburbs. Considered the birthplace of the American Dream, these towns were built during a period of national prosperity and financed with government support after World War II. Now many of these once highly desirable communities face the same challenges urban areas do: growing poverty, white flight, a crumbling infrastructure, abandonment, and the continual lure of newer communities further from the cities.

The New Metropolis consists of two half-hour episodes:

Episode 1: *A Crack in the Pavement*, narrated by actor **Peter Coyote**, explores the national infrastructure crises through the stories of two suburban Ohio public officials as they struggle to fix their broken infrastructure and save their aging communities. **Prof. Myron Orfield of the University of Minnesota's Institute on Race and Poverty** is featured in this film.

Episode 2: *The New Neighbors*, narrated by Academy Award nominated actress **Ruby Dee**, 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 suburban town of Philadelphia, PA.

Companion Program Highlights Twin Cities issues

“New Metropolis Minnesota: Growing Together as a Region.”

Transportation, schools, changing demographics, and housing issues are featured in the TPT-produced companion program, ***New Metropolis Minnesota***. This program highlights a community dialogue between community members and regional leaders such as Susan Haigh, Chair of the Metropolitan Council, Steve Devich, City Manager, City of Richfield, Gary Cunningham, Northwest Area Foundation, Ahmed Jama, Eden Prairie Somali community advocate, Melissa Krull, Eden Prairie Schools Superintendent, and other regional advocates.

The program features two panel discussions that use *The New Metropolis* as a starting point for their conversations. “The Crack in the Pavement” panel includes Chair Haigh’s vision for the Metropolitan Council, a regional entity noted in the film as a model for other regions to emulate. “The New Neighbors” discussion features the Eden Prairie 2010 school redistricting process to create more racially integrated schools as a local attempt to pursue a more equitable community, in the of the efforts in Pennsauken, N.J. Both panels include audience questions and panel responses. Sponsored by Envision Minnesota (formerly 1000 Friends of Minnesota).

Broadcast Dates

The New Metropolis and *New Metropolis Minnesota* will air:

Sunday, May 1 from 8 - 10 p.m. (TPT’s MN Channel)

Episode 1: “A Crack in the Pavement” - 30 Minutes

Episode 2: “The New Neighbors” - 30 minutes

“New Metropolis Minnesota”- 60 minutes

The series will be rebroadcast on

Sunday, May 8 from 12 - 2 p.m. (TPT Life)

According to filmmaker Torrice, “The fate of America’s original suburbs is a cautionary tale for every community. The film series addresses the reality facing millions of Americans in hundreds of communities. It offers hope, new ideas and everyday heroes.”

For information on the series, events and broadcasts, visit www.thenewmetropolis.com, or call Torrice Productions at (513) 751-7050.

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