

Nashville PBS

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April 20, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to express Nashville PBS's enthusiastic support for *Fort Houston*, the latest project from veteran filmmakers Leah Steltenpohl and Josh and Andy Duensing. We are honored to partner with them to bring this important new documentary to viewers in Nashville and across the country. Their extensive production experience and commitment to nurturing curiosity, understanding, and a love for discovery find perfect expression in their new film, which also manifests the PBS mission of serving the public interest through high-quality content that informs, educates, and inspires.

We're particularly excited about the ways *Fort Houston* bridges old and new Nashville while reflecting dynamics that affect growing cities across the country. The film will reminisce with long-time residents and inspire new citizens by depicting the turn-of-the-millennium era when Nashville was smaller, grungier, and scrappier. Though known primarily as a country music town, the city also boasted a vibrant underground art and music scene. Fort Houston was its gathering place. A group of trailblazing young artists came together there to create a makerspace where they could work, collaborate, and showcase their talents. While launching their careers, they established a vibrant community, making Wedgewood Houston *the* cool place to be. This coolness attracted the forces of gentrification, which slowly but surely remade the neighborhood, shifting it from a place where art was made into an artsy place few could afford.

The filmmakers' decision to integrate form and content will ensure this film represents the spirit of its main characters and attracts younger viewers. The alt-rock and punk soundtrack, verité-style interviews, and photographic cinematography will imbue the film with a sense of authenticity and intimacy while attesting to the continued dynamism of the creatives that made this makerspace a hub of creativity and self-expression. Though the Fort Houston era may be past, its people and legacy live on, as vital as ever.

We believe *Fort Houston* deserves wide recognition and support. I am committed to supporting this film as it develops and I look forward to working with Leah, Andy, and Josh for years to come. We at Nashville PBS can't wait to broadcast this film on our air and we're proud to represent it for national distribution to public television stations across the country.

Sincerely,
Sarah Childress, Ph.D.
Director of Strategy & Operations
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