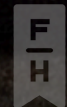


THEY DIDN'T JUST MAKE *THINGS*. THEY MADE A *PLACE*.

# FORT HOUSTON



A film by  
LEAH GRAY STELTENPOHL & THE DUENSING BROS.



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ARCHAEA PRODUCTIONS

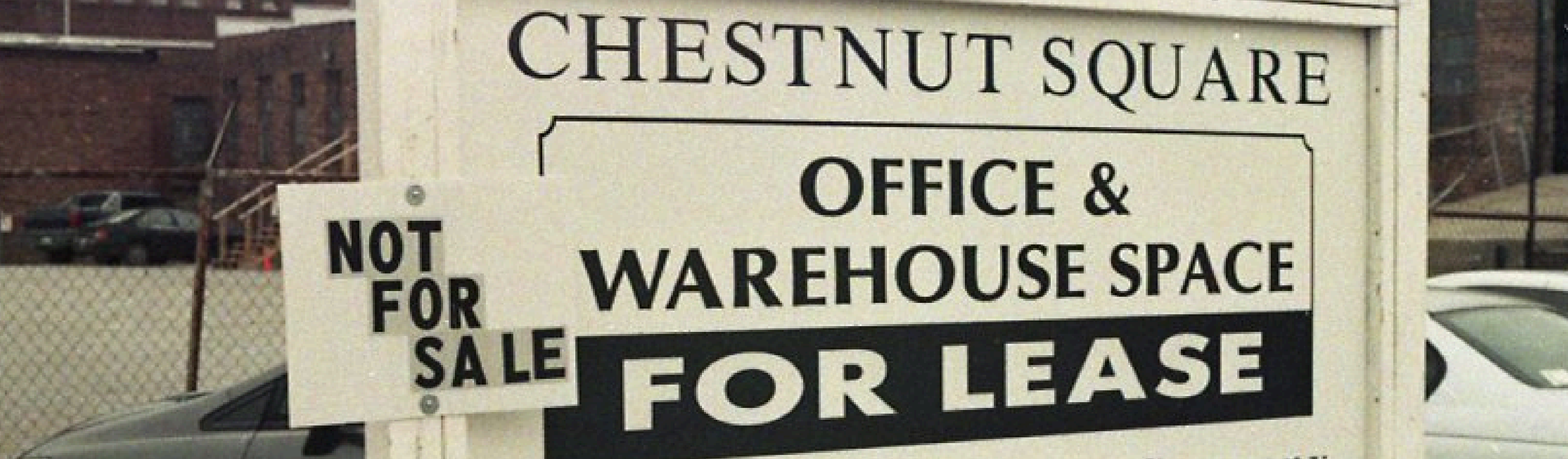




## FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

An exploration of the Nashville makerspace **Fort Houston** - and how the impulse to make things transformed a neighborhood, launched careers and led to the best parties in town.





## OVERVIEW

This is the story of a bunch of kids who ran a weird art space in the Wedgewood Houston neighborhood of Nashville - long before it had itself a fancy acronym.

We'll see how they came together, made art, played music, drank beer, kept a membership based business afloat and made the neighborhood desirable for the suits that ultimately priced them out.

The people made Nashville what it is now. The people made Fort Houston. And in that spirit, the people will make this film.

Grab yourself a PBR and a slice of Jet's pizza and meet the members.









Jon Dalman | Mesa | Woodshop







Julia | Omo | Metal Shop





Drew + Bingham | Grand Palace | Print



MEET THE MEMBERS







## WHY THIS DOC?

Nashville, like a lot of mid-sized American cities, is being gentrified and developed out of its character and culture.

**But it's not all shit news.**

There are people who are putting sweat and tears into maintaining what has been and what will be of the other side of Nashville culture. Sure, the city is benefiting from the bachelorettes and the honky-tonkers, but it's the makers and the small business owners that are continuously developing the community and economy as a whole.

We know it gets all jargony to say that mixed use manufacturing infrastructure is going to sustain and grow a city's economy over a span of 20 or 30 years. It's difficult to put to paper why a space pieced together by weird art kids for the sheer purpose of creating and empowering others to do the same is so important.

**It's easier to just show it. That's what Fort Houston did so well.**





They threw parties and **invited** people into the space.

They **developed** relationships with the neighbors.

They **created** the After Crawl that brought thousands of **art lovers** to the neighborhood every month.





They didn't just make *things*. They made a *place*.  
And that place propelled Nashville into a new era.







FORT  
HOUSTON  
NASHVILLE

Mesa



CONSIDER *the* WLDFLWRS

OMO furniture + fabrication

## ARTISTIC APPROACH

The magic of this film will be in its duality. Then and now. Archival and present.

By intertwining a huge library of archival footage and authentic verite style interviews with the characters in their spaces now, a narrative of trailblazers, iconoclasts and entrepreneurs will emerge from the paint stained clothes of artists, craftsmen, and hangers on.

Wide, photographic shots and close up, gritty, seemingly self-filmed scenes will transport us to a Nashville long lost. Wistful monologues about why the space was so magical and intimate will commingle with the artists at work now. It will show that while the Fort Houston era of Nashville may be gone, its legacy is not.

AND holding it together are the myriad voices of the alt and punk scene that banged out the (often live) soundtrack to the golden years of Fort Houston. So forget about paid parking, lock your car doors and let's step back into 2014 pre-WeHo Nashville (even if you don't know what that is...).



## TIMELINE

- **September - May 2025**
  - Pre-interviews with main characters
  - Begin Image & Video Archive
  - Location Scouting
  - Style discussions with production team
  - Budget and timeline discussions
  - Fundraising
- **June 2025**
  - Pre-production begins
- **August-September 2025**
  - Principal Photography & Interviews
- **October 2025**
  - Post Production
  - Community screening premier event at **Nashville Design Week**
- **October 2025**
  - Community Premier and final group interview shoot -
- **November -December 2025**
  - Final Cut
  - APT Marketplace
  - Festival Submissions Begin

## BUDGET - \$375,000

- Development & Pre-Production - \$45,000
- Production - \$130,000
- Post-Production & Distribution - \$200,000







# WHO WE ARE

Archaea is a full service Emmy Nominated media production company founded by brothers and Nashville natives Andrew and Josh Duensing. They strive to make documentaries that evoke the cinematic power of narrative and narratives that evoke the authenticity and immediacy of documentary.

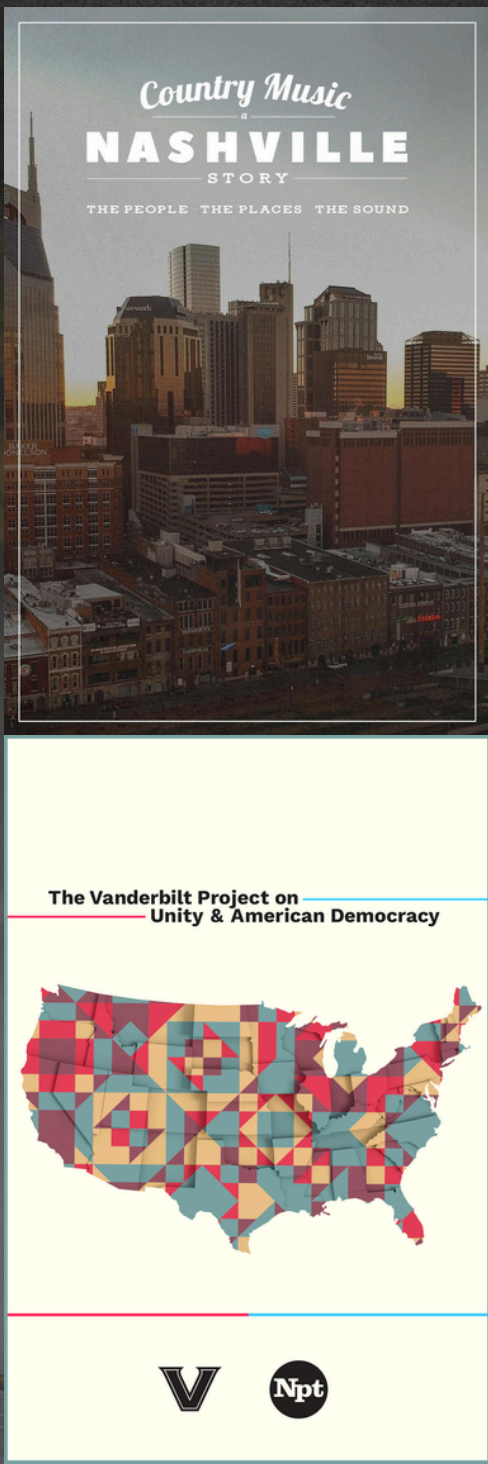
Archaea and Producer/Director Leah Steltenpohl are teaming up for the making of this film, combining years of experience in the field and within the walls of Fort Houston.

They are storytellers, not content creators.

Archaea’s documentary, narrative, branded and commercial work can be seen on PBS, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Terrestrial Broadcast and all the socials.







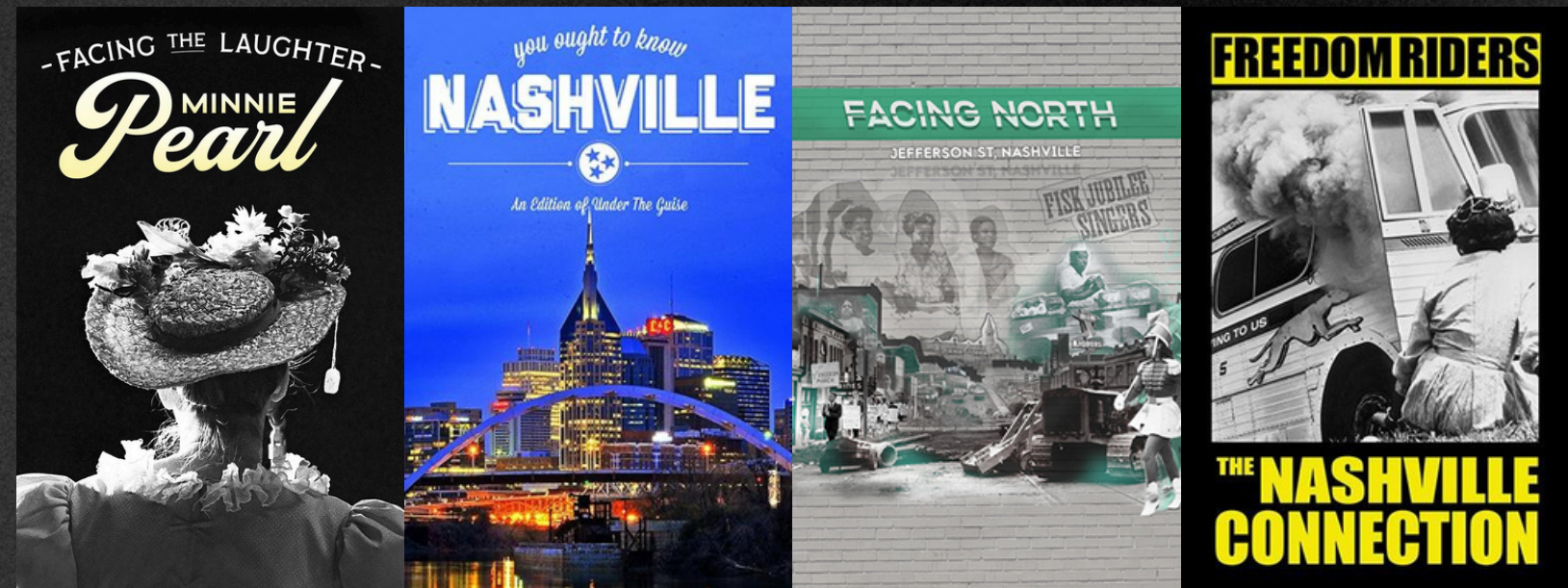
# WHO WE ARE

Nashville PBS is the home to PBS for Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, dedicated to fostering a love of learning, culture, and community using the power of public media.

We deliver high-quality PBS programs along with content by and about the people of our region. Our content is available for free through our four broadcast channels, on our website, social media, and via the PBS app.

We engage deeply with the community through partnerships, events, and outreach, providing educational resources and access to arts and cultural experiences.

## Nashville PBS Letter of Support for the Fort Houston project





# CONTACT US

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**THANK YOU!**