



**CITY OF TREES premieres on AMERICA REFRAMED**  
A film by Brandon Kramer and Lance Kramer

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 8 p.m.**  
**on Public Television's WORLD Channel**

**AMERICA REFRAMED**  
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"I was moved by the way the film personalizes the intersection of the recovery with urban communities, the day-to-day experience of participating in a job training program, and the story of disenfranchised minority participation in the emerging green economy."  
– Van Jones, CNN political contributor and associate producer, CITY OF TREES

March 22, 2016 – (New York, NY) – Brandon Kramer and Lance Kramer's documentary **CITY OF TREES** will have its U.S. television premiere **Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 8 p.m.** on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)), as part of the fourth season of **AMERICA REFRAMED**, public media's newest documentary series hosted by Natasha Del Toro. The film will be available for free streaming on [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org) starting April 20, 2016.

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"WORLD Channel is excited to present **CITY OF TREES** as part of AMERICA REFRAMED's fourth season. At WORLD, we continue to curate stories that document how green economies can transform America's urban centers. **CITY OF TREES** is such a timely story, we felt compelled to bring it to audiences watching WORLD on-air and online," says Chris Hastings, Executive Producer WORLD Channel.

A personal story about the struggle to achieve social, economic and environmental change during the worst recession in a generation, **CITY OF TREES** captures the tension-filled last six months of a two-year grant cycle, and the close-out of a \$2.7 million stimulus grant.

Since 1990, the nonprofit Washington Parks & People has tried to reduce poverty and violence in Washington, D.C. neighborhoods by improving parks. At the height of the recession, the organization received a stimulus grant to create a "green" job-training program in communities hardest hit and had two years to help unemployed people find jobs and improve parks in their neighborhoods.



In the life of a nonprofit, a grant this size can signal a mixed-blessing. The organization launches an ambitious scaling-up of its program; yet the size of the award and the perception of success render the organization vulnerable to losing other philanthropic gifts and individual donations.

**CITY OF TREES** raises serious questions about collaboration and communication, but more importantly about the role of nonprofit organizations and its leaders as members of a community and its ecosystem. For Steve Coleman, the president of Washington Parks & People, the grant offers the opportunity to elevate the impact of his organization's work in a community with an entrenched distrust of outsiders.

For the primarily lower-income trainees whose lives and livelihoods hang in the balance, the program represents a path to new beginnings. The film introduces us to charismatic men like Michael Samuels for whom the job training is a first step towards re-entry and to James Magruder, a Ward 8 native in his late 50s, who emerges in his new role as a community liaison.

**CITY OF TREES** offers a critical new perspective on the challenges of retraining America's workforce and rebuilding natural environments in its cities. What sounds like a simple goal—putting people back to work by planting trees in a blighted neighborhood—opens up a complex web of personal and community challenges.

#### **Film Credits**

Director: Brandon Kramer

Producer: Lance Kramer, Meridian Hill Pictures in association with Kartemquin Films and Magic Labs Media

Editor: Edwin Martinez

Camera: Ellie Walton

#### **About AMERICA REFRAMED**

**AMERICA REFRAMED** is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc. and is hosted by journalist Natasha Del Toro.

Season 4 of AMERICA REFRAMED curates a diverse selection of films highlighting innovative and artistic approaches to storytelling from emerging and veteran filmmakers alike. Viewers will be immersed in personal stories from the streets of towns big and small to the exurbs and country roads that span the spectrum of American life. The documentaries invite audiences to reflect on topics as varied as culture, healthcare, politics, gun violence, religion and more. Several episodes feature a roundtable discussion moderated by host Natasha Del Toro with special guest commentators and filmmakers.



In 2015, AMERICA REFRAMED won a GRACIE Outstanding Series award, and was nominated for an EMMY award as well as an Independent Documentary Association award for best curated series. In its first season, AMERICA REFRAMED received five 2013 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, and one Imagen Awards nomination.

#### **AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits**

Executive Producers: Justine Nagan, Chris Hastings, Chris White  
Series Producer: Carmen L. Vicencio  
Host: Natasha Del Toro

#### **Web and Social Media**

AMERICA REFRAMED can be accessed online via  
<http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>  
and,  
<https://www.facebook.com/WorldChannel>  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed>

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#### **AMERICA REFRAMED Co-Producers**

**American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc)** is a multimedia arts organization dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation. AmDoc is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For more information, visit: [www.amdoc.org](http://www.amdoc.org)

**The WORLD Channel** delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming, including original content by and about diverse communities, to U.S. audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at worldchannel.org. WORLD reached 35.8 million unique viewers 18+ last year (55% adults 18-49) and over-indexes in key diversity demographics. Online, the WORLD



Channel expands on broadcast topics and fuels dialogue across social media, providing opportunities for broad and diverse audience interaction.

WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with PBS and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Ford Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Kendeda Fund. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org)

**Media Contact**

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