2009-2012 NCPM Brown Bag Film Series - List of Films

- Making Sense of Place Portland: Quest for the Livable City
- Making Sense of Place Phoenix: The Urban Desert
- A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil
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- Taken for a Ride
- Denver Union Station Portal to Progress
- Transit-Oriented Development: Reshaping the Great American City
- Make No Little Plans: Daniel Burnham and the American City
- The Greenest Building
- Reshaping the Suburban Landscape: A Documentary (*only 20-minutes long)
- Designing Healthy Communities Episode 1: Retrofitting Suburbia
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- Designing Healthy Communities Episode 3: Social Policy in Concrete
- Designing Healthy Communities Episode 4: Searching for Shangri La

The City of Lakewood's Planning Department encourages those interested in viewing the films to "rent" them free of charge for up to one week. Please contact Walter Jauch at 303-987-7505 or waljau@lakewood.org for more information.

Making Sense of Place - Portland: Quest for the Livable City

This film chronicles the complex challenges of aspiring to be a more sustainable metropolis with a smaller carbon footprint. As cities across the country today attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in transit, and focus on infill redevelopment as an alternative to car-dependent sprawl, the experience of Portland provides a cautionary tale for planning in the 21st century, involving issues of economic development, gentrification, local food and farming, property rights, and civic participation.

Making Sense of Place - Phoenix: The Urban Desert

Through the eyes and voices of Phoenix residents, the film explores the interrelationships both caused by and affecting individual choices, the democratic process and market forces in the region. Many factors contribute to this development pattern, which is providing homes and jobs to 100,000 new residents each year but is also threatening the region's unique desert environment.

A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil

This informative, inspirational documentary is aimed at sharing ideas to provoke environment-friendly and cost-effective changes in cities worldwide. The documentary focuses on innovations in transportation, recycling, social benefits including affordable housing, seasonal parks, and the processes that transformed Curitiba into one of the most livable cities in the world.

Colfax Avenue: Main Street Colorado

This is the story of the longest commercial thoroughfare in America. As both a neighborhood main street and transcontinental highway, Colfax Avenue provides a telling reflection of the people and events that shaped metropolitan Denver. Along the banks of this concrete river, the link between history and destiny can be discovered.

Taken for a Ride

Why does America have the worst public transit in the industrialized world and the most freeways? "Taken for a Ride" reveals the tragic and little-known story of an auto and oil industry campaign, led by General Motors, to buy and dismantle streetcar lines. Across the nation, tracks were torn up, sometimes overnight, and diesel buses placed on city streets. With investigative journalism, vintage archival footage and candid interviews, "Taken for a Ride" presents a revealing history of our cities in the 20th century that is also a meditation on corporate power, city form, citizen protest and the social and environmental implications of transportation.

Denver Union Station - Portal to Progress

When Union Station first opened in 1881, it was a depot for more than 80 trains a day carrying families, merchants, laborers and business leaders. It was also the largest building in Denver. Following World War II, railroads gave way to cars, trucks and airplanes. Today, Union Station often stands empty, save for a few passengers waiting for the Amtrak train. But plans are in the works to restore Union Station to its original glory so that it can once again welcome passengers as a central transportation hub. From a 19th century regional gateway to a 21st century multi-model hub, the "Denver Union Station: Portal to Progress" film awakens a sense of civic pride and thoughtful appreciation for the continuing legacy of a grand community icon.

Transit-Oriented Development: Reshaping the Great American City

The film is targeted to three audiences: neighborhoods, municipalities, and developers. It shows how good design is good business, creating special places and yielding a higher return on investment than less thoughtful approaches. It encourages viewers to expect and insist upon excellence in the environments around future transit stops. The film addresses access to the transportation system, connections, context, density and growth, uses and activities, landscape, and beauty. Through case studies, it identifies challenges and opportunities and makes useful recommendations in the discussion of site-specific projects.

Make No Little Plans: Daniel Burnham and the American City

This documentary explores the life and legacy of visionary architect and city planner Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846-1912). Burnham's urban planning work helped set the standard for modern city planning in America, leaving a lasting impact on our cities. Daniel Hudson Burnham built some of the first skyscrapers in the world; directed construction of the World's Columbian Exposition that helped inspire the City Beautiful Movement in towns across America; and created urban plans before the modern profession of urban planning existed for San Francisco; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Cleveland; and Manila and Baguio City in the Philippines.

The Greenest Building

This film presents a compelling overview of the important role that reusing buildings plays in creating sustainable communities. "The Greenest Building" explores the myth that a "green building" is a new building and demonstrates how renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures fully achieves the sustainability movement's "triple bottom line" – economic, social, and ecological balance.

Reshaping the Suburban Landscape: A Documentary (*only 20-minutes long)

The practice of single-use, low-density, auto-dependant suburban development is credited with causing transportation problems, environmental damage, and socio-economic inequity. High-density, mixed-use, and mixed-income developments served by public transit are an alternative to conventional suburban development and an integral part of an overall regional strategy of "smart growth." One opportunity for this type of sustainable growth is the redevelopment of previously developed commercial sites. One example is shown in this short film, which explores the transition of the suburban Villa Italia shopping mall in Lakewood into the thriving mixed-use urban Belmar District.

Designing Healthy Communities Episode 1: Retrofitting Suburbia

Dr. Richard Jackson MD MPH, investigates the link between our nation's obesity and Type 2 Diabetes epidemic with urban sprawl fueled by car dependency. To prevent disease through better urban planning, Boulder, CO, redesigns the city to make bicycles a safe alternative transportation.

Designing Healthy Communities Episode 2: Rebuilding Places of the Heart

Parents and children under siege. When U.S. industry and manufacturing collapsed or went elsewhere, cities like Elgin, IL, and Syracuse, NY, (like many communities in the United States) were left with the task of redefining themselves for a new paradigm. Leading the way to a greener, more sustainable Elgin is a group of high school students.

Designing Healthy Communities Episode 3: Social Policy in Concrete

Dr. Jackson believes it is every citizen's right to live in a clean, healthy environment. This isn't the case for many low-income neighborhoods, built near big transportation hubs and struggling industrial cities like Oakland, CA, and Detroit, MI.

Designing Healthy Communities Episode 4: Searching for Shangri La

Dr. Jackson searches past and present America for healthy, sustainable communities of all sizes and shapes that can serve as models for the rest of the nation. His journey takes him to Roseto, PA; Prairie Crossing, IL; New York City; Charleston, SC; and the forgotten 1960s urban renewal project of Lafayette Park in Detroit, MI, the brainchild of 4 men, including visionary architect, Mies van der Rohe.