FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Public Education Foundation Releases Trailer for Documentary ‘By Design: The Shaping of Nashville’s Public Schools’

Seeking to mobilize Nashvillians in dismantling systemic inequities, NPEF presents spoken histories, archived footage and personal interviews in new video

NASHVILLE, TENN. – May 17, 2021– On what marks the 67th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case that ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) has revealed its latest project aimed at creating schools where all students can thrive. NPEF today released a video trailer for a documentary intended to educate city leaders and the community about how public will and policy has formed the basis for the city’s current education system. To be released widely later this summer, the 60-minute documentary, By Design: The Shaping of Nashville’s Public Schools, is intended to generate awareness and advocacy and stimulate policy solutions for a better public school system for all students.

“As we reflect on the pivotal moment that the Brown v. Board of Education case marked in our nation’s history, we are excited to share a preview of our latest project to help remove barriers to educational experiences,” said Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation. “Just like all social issues, it’s hard to know how to solve today’s challenges without understanding how we got here. We hope this project helps to spur thoughtful conversation about how Nashville can dismantle structures that continue to perpetuate inequities in our schools.”

By Design: The Shaping of Nashville’s Public Schools will examine the history of public schooling in Nashville dating back to the 1800s and the effects of city policies and community priorities on schools. The video features interviews with three historians: the Tennessee Historical Commission’s Linda Wynn, Columbia University professor Dr. Ansley Erickson, and Nashville’s unofficial historian David Ewing. The documentary also highlights first-hand witnesses of pivotal moments in history, including five of the original 16 Black students who integrated Nashville schools in 1957, former School Board and Metro Council Member Ed Kindall, Governor Phil Bredesen, Rev. Becca Stevens, Metro Nashville Public Schools graduate and community advocate Kasar Abdulla, and others.

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“NPEF is working to help build our collective knowledge about the decisions over decades that have influenced Nashville’s schools,” said Brenda Wynn, NPEF Board Chair and Davidson County Clerk. “With this documentary in hand, we are positioned to look with a keen eye to the future of our city – learning from our past to ensure a more equitable and just education system for all of our students and families.”

*By Design: The Shaping of Nashville’s Public Schools* was produced by NPEF in partnership with Nashville-based Moving Picture Boys. The foundation is in discussions to finalize distribution and airing options, but the full-length video is expected to be released at the end of June 2021. The release will be supported by additional community activities like screenings, webinars and panels to facilitate discussions. Interested stakeholders can sign-up to receive email alerts and updates from the foundation online at www.nashvillepef.org.

The trailer is available on YouTube at: [https://youtu.be/uvWQ1mRnMc4](https://youtu.be/uvWQ1mRnMc4).

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**About the Nashville Public Education Foundation**

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to support teachers and leaders, champion successes, and dismantle inequities in Metro Nashville Public Schools. More information is available at nashvillepef.org.

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