

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville's Public Education History on Display at SXSW EDU 2022

A cautionary tale, By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools examines history of inequities continuing to impact students today

NASHVILLE, TENN. – March 3, 2022 – The [Nashville Public Education Foundation \(NPEF\)](#) will share the city's public education history with a national audience during a screening of *By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools* at the South by Southwest (SXSW) EDU Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas on March 8, 2022. The documentary, available to watch [online](#), examines the history of inequity in Nashville's public schools to stimulate conversations about collective solutions for a public school system that works for ALL students.

"We believe that Nashville's public education history is the story of many cities across the country, and we are honored to be chosen to share this film at SXSW EDU," said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation**. "We look forward to sparking national conversations around inequities in education at the conference and bringing our learnings back to Nashville, so we can continue to drive policies and solutions to create schools where children can thrive."

Each year in March, SXSW EDU convenes leaders in education to foster innovation and learning within the industry. The conference and festival is a four-day event offering compelling sessions, in-depth workshops, engaging learning experiences, mentorship, film screenings, future-focused competitions, an expo, networking opportunities, and more.

By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools is one of ten films chosen to be shown at SXSW EDU this year. The 60-minute documentary examines the effects of community priorities and city policies on education during defining moments in the history of public schooling in Nashville dating back to the 1800s. The film 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 witness accounts 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.

By Design was produced by NPEF in collaboration with video production company Moving Picture Boys, education experts, leading historians, community and state leaders, and students from defining moments in the city's public school history.

NPEF continues to hold both public and private screenings of *By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools*, as well as assemble panels for community groups seeking to engage with the film. For a list of upcoming screenings, or to inquire about hosting a screening, interested parties can visit the foundation online at www.nashvillepef.org/by-design/.

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About the Nashville Public Education Foundation

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to remove barriers for students by promoting excellence, serving as a critical friend to Metro Nashville Public Schools, convening

stakeholders, and advocating for change so all students can thrive in school. More information is available at nashvillepef.org.

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