An extended preview and discussion of HBO’s Documentary Film *Class Divide*

Speaker Biographies

**Hyisheem Shabazz Calier, featured in Class Divide**

Calier is a multifaceted creative, hailing from the Chelsea-Elliot housing project. He is the founder of the lifestyle brand H.O.O.D. (Hustle Out of Desperation) Brothers LLC. During his undergraduate years at Virginia State University, where he was student government association president, Calier tapped into his creative passion by producing the university’s theme song to recruit students and the university’s first ringtone. His interest in music resulted in the release of his first iTunes single, “Radio.” He is the first in his family to graduate from college and pursue a professional degree.

**Scott Kratz, director, 11th Street Bridge Park**

For the last four years, Scott Kratz has worked with the Washington, DC, Office of Planning and the Ward 8 nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River at the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus to transform an old freeway bridge into a park above the Anacostia River. The 11th Street Bridges that connect Capitol Hill with communities east of the river have reached the end of their lifespan, and Kratz is working with the community to use the base of one of the bridges to create a one-of-a-kind civic space supporting active recreation, environmental education, and the arts. Kratz is a resident of Barrack’s Row and has lived in Washington, DC, for 10 years. He has worked in education for 20 years and began his career teaching at Kidspace, a children’s museum in Pasadena, California. He was later the associate director of the Institute for the Study of the American West at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles. He supervised a staff that planned and implemented theater, film, music, festivals, family programs, lecture series, and academic symposia. Most recently, he was vice president for education at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.
Marc Levin, director, *Class Divide*

Marc Levin is an award-winning independent filmmaker. His groundbreaking 1998 feature film, *Slam*, won the Grand Jury Prize for a Dramatic Film at the Sundance Film Festival and the Camera d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Levin produced *Brick City*, a Peabody Award–winning and twice Emmy-nominated documentary series about Newark, New Jersey, that follows mayor Cory Booker and people on the front lines of a city struggling to change. Recently, Levin partnered with Robert Redford of Sundance Productions on *Chicagoland*, a CNN documentary series that premiered in March 2014 to great critical acclaim and was nominated for a 2014 International Documentary Association award for Best Limited Series. Levin has made 15 films for HBO, including *Class Divide*, which focuses on the hypergentrification of Chelsea in lower Manhattan, where he has lived for 40 years. Among honors for his work, he has won three Emmys and four DuPont-Columbia Awards.

Oramenta F. Newsome, vice president, LISC DC

Oramenta Newsome is vice president for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) DC and Virginia programs. She manages the work of LISC DC and supervises the executive director of LISC Virginia. Newsome has worked in neighborhood revitalization and community development for over 25 years. Before joining LISC, Newsome was a program director for Enterprise Community Partners; a city planner and homeless services coordinator for Fort Worth, Texas; and a planner for Cobb County, Georgia. She has traveled across the United States, writing funding proposals and providing technical assistance to small and midsize towns. She was a Fannie Mae fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Program for Senior Executives. She is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Washington and received the District of Columbia’s Mayor’s Quality Partner Award as one of the City’s Caring for Children Champions. Newsome is a member of the DC Housing Production Trust Fund advisory board and is on the advisory committee for the DC Generations Initiatives. She is also the recipient of the City First Bank Baptist Award and the American Dream Award from Manna Inc. Newsome serves on the advisory boards for the DC Fiscal Policy Institute and DC KIDS COUNT. She is also a member of an African American Women Giving Circle. Newsome lectures to undergraduate and graduate classes and conducts training in community development and neighborhood revitalization. She holds a BS in public administration from Auburn University and an MS in community development and planning from Georgia State University.
Dawn Phillips, executive director, Right to the City Alliance
Before becoming executive director of Right to the City Alliance in January 2016, Dawn Phillips was the board chair. Phillips has been engaged in social, economic, and environmental justice organizations and fights in the Bay Area and nationally for almost 25 years. Phillips is also codirector of programs at Causa Justa :: Just Cause (CJJC), a Bay Area membership organization focused on community development, housing, and immigrant justice issues. Phillips leads the local, regional, and national policy campaign work for CJJC and was lead author on its report “Development Without Displacement: Resisting Gentrification in the Bay Area,” a study on the impacts of gentrification and displacement on working-class communities of color. Phillips has also authored several articles on equitable development, organizing, and movement building.

Sarah Rosen Wartell, president, Urban Institute
Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute. During her tenure, Urban has articulated its strategy to “elevate the debate” by bringing more of its research insights to federal, state, and local government and practice; becoming a leader in research communications and data visualization; and undertaking an ambitious program of business systems and technology modernization. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At HUD from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Later, she was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and “Doing What Works” government performance program. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell serves on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, Center for Law and Social Policy, and Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University. She is also a Penn Institute for Urban Research Scholar. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has an AB degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She has a JD degree from Yale Law School.

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