Trenton is a small city with big dreams. In the last century, industry and immigration made it a vibrant and promising home. But the collapse of manufacturing and decades of struggle have tarnished Trenton’s prospects. Today, policymakers, community leaders, and concerned citizens in New Jersey’s state capital are searching for new ways to sustain lives, build community, and spark opportunity. Trentonians themselves bring energy, insight and heart to the task, grappling every day with urban problems that have no easy solutions. They make homes in a city many say is unfixable.

The Trenton Project is a collaborative project produced by the students of URB202, “Documentary Film and the City.” This semester, students are producing and directing micro-documentaries examining home, housing and urban development. These short films offer a window on the lives and work of city residents, social workers, activists, entrepreneurs, and city officials. Together, they form a mosaic portrait of Trenton and its hopes for the future.

THE TRENTON PROJECT Filmmakers:
Sean Chen
Andrea Chu
Azza Cohen
Doug Greco
Marina Kaneko
Jessica Mulligan
Brian Perlmutter
Annie Prasad
Joseph Sung
Kelly Timmes
Roman Wilson

Purcell Carson is an Emmy-nominated editor whose works include the 2009 Oscar-winner Smiley Pinki, Note By Note: The Making of Steinway 1037, and Double Dare. She was recently awarded Best Documentary Editor at the Tribeca Film Festival for her work on Semper Fi: Always Faithful. She is a graduate of Brown and Stanford Universities and teaches in the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. She directs The Trenton Project.

Thanks: This project and class is supported by Princeton’s Community-Based Learning Initiative, an office which connects Princeton classes with partners in the community. We are grateful to dozens of individuals in Trenton and our willing institutional partners, including: Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, The Mercer County Board of Social Services, Greater Trenton Behavioral Health Care, Trenton Housing Authority, Penrose Properties, Isles, FROMH (Former Residents of Miller Homes), Holly Nance Property Management, The Trenton Public Library, Artworks and The City of Trenton.

Monday, May 20, 6PM
Artworks Trenton, 19 Everett Alley, Trenton NJ

Eleven short student documentaries by the students in URB202, Documentary Film and the City

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Additional information: urbanstudies.princeton.edu

Events are free and open to the public. Sponsored by Urban Studies, Princeton University, with generous support from the Community Based Learning Initiative.

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