

Princeton University/ Program in Urban Studies

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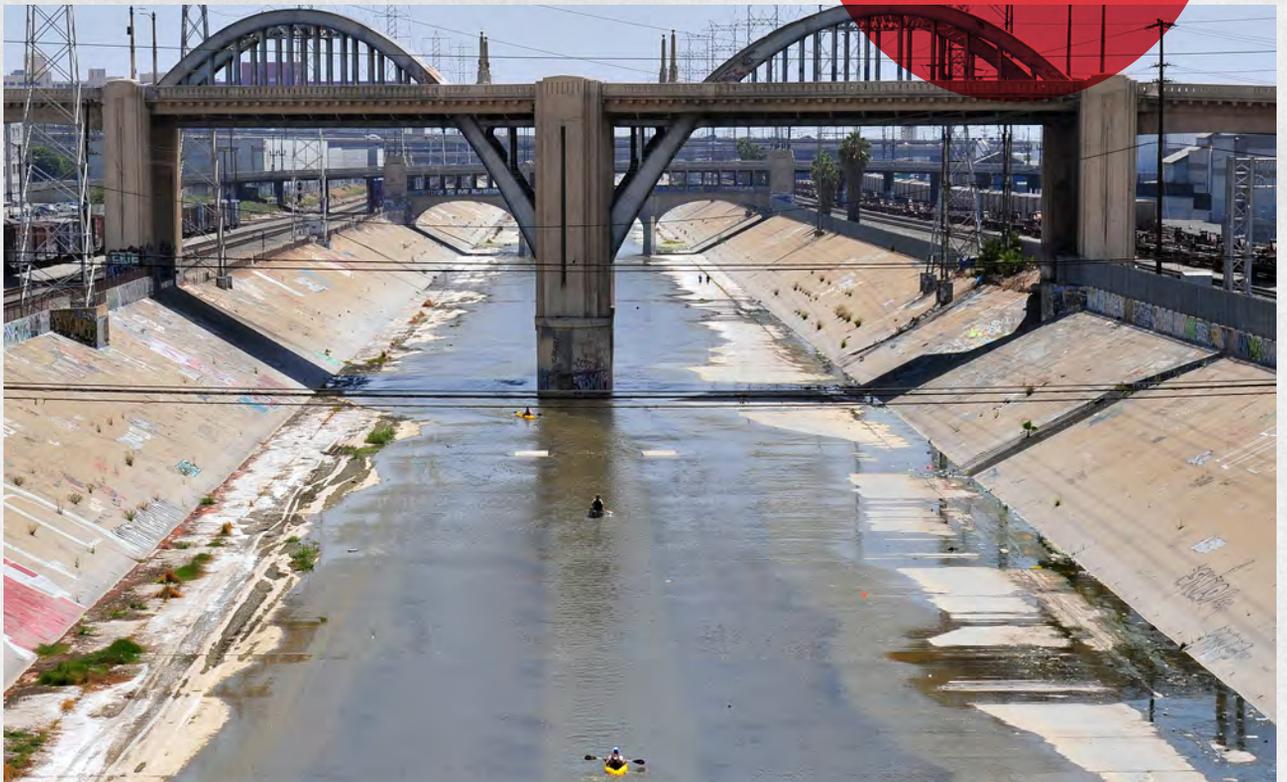
Tuesday, February 11, 7pm
Betts Auditorium, School of Architecture

Rock the Boat

The story of a river locked in concrete: 2008. USA. Film by Thea Mercouffer. 54 min.
Screening and conversation with Linda Cox and Jenny Price.

<http://www.rocktheboatfilm.com/>

02/11



In the summer of 2008, when a government agency rules that the derided LA River is not worthy of environmental protection, writer and avid boater George Wolfe organizes an expedition to paddle the river's entire 51 miles through the heart of LA. With a band of ragtag locals, he helps beat back a challenge to the Clean Water Act, and he wages a local battle with national significance.

Used, abused and forgotten, the LA River is now at the center of a hugely ambitious vision to transform this concrete metropolis into a more sustainable model city for the 21st century. This film tells the incredible story of the expedition, the story of the embattled waterway, and the story of Los Angeles' past, present and potential future.

"The film is amazing! It was refreshing to watch activism end with a positive outcome, not only for the community, but for our natural resources. "

– Alexis Oliar, Executive Director,
Mountain Area Preservation

"**Rock the Boat** looks at the river's past years of neglect and mismanagement, and at its very real dream of a future, with an optimistic heart and a realistic eye."

– Richard Pearce, co-producer
"Food Inc."

Jenny Price is Barron Visiting Professor of the Environment and the Humanities at Princeton University. Jenny is a public writer, artist, and historian, and has written extensively about the L.A. River and has led tours and designed public art projects along its banks since 2002. She's a co-founder of the public art collectives L.A. Urban Rangers and Project 51, and the author of "Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A.," Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America, and the Green Me Up, JJ not-quite advice column.

Linda R. Cox is Executive Director of the Bronx River Alliance and Bronx River Administrator for the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. Prior to joining the Alliance and Parks Department in 2002, Linda directed the Urban Parks Program as Program Officer for the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. She previously served as Director of the Planning Center, the community assistance arm of the Municipal Art Society; Director of Community-Based Planning for the NYC Department of City Planning; and Planning Manager for the City of Gainesville, Florida.

"George Wolfe's simple act of boating on the LA River becomes a political movement. This film tells the story with wit and aplomb."

– Wild & Scenic Film Festival

"A delightful, informative film. **Rock the Boat** offers a positive and inspiring story of a small group of committed people whose actions, playful and smart, are forcing the government to clean up and restore the Los Angeles River."

– John de Graaf, author, PBS
documentary director

/ Additional information:
urbanstudies.princeton.edu

/ Events are free and open to the public.

/ Sponsored by Urban Studies, Princeton University.

/ Co-sponsored by the Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities.

/ Design: Evangelos Kotsioris.

/ Contact: Alison Isenberg, Department of History, isenber@princeton.edu.

People's Choice Award, Wild & Scenic Film Festival

ISLA Earth Award, Catalina Film Festival **Best Feature Film**, FILManthropy Film

Film Series/Spring '14