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**Now Showing: The Next American Dream Documents Story of American Downtowns**

**Kansas City, Missouri** – Kansas City Public Television (KCPT) along with T2 Entertainment and Inland Sea Productions announce the national release of “The Next American Dream” – a brand new documentary film that examines the history, culture and future of American downtowns.

“This unique film about American cities opens up the conversation for communities wanting to reinvent their city centers as vibrant, walkable places that are highly valued,” said Kliff Kuehl, president and CEO, KCPT.

Christopher Leinberger, fellow with the Brookings Institution, is one of nine national urban experts who provided the foundation for “The Next American Dream.”

“I am honored to join urban land strategists and developers from across the U.S. in telling the compelling story of why our American cities are built the way that they are, and how they are adapting,” says Leinberger. “Through my research at the Brookings Institution, I have come to realize that our country is experiencing a fundamental change in how we build our metropolitan areas. This is affecting how we live, work and play, as well as introducing the next version of the American Dream.”

“The Next American Dream” tells the story of how the Post World War II American Dream led to the birth of the interstate highway system, suburbia, and an automobile-driven society. Today, a host of unintended consequences of that generation’s choices – from environmental to social – is combining with a demographic shift in the number of households without children and an increasing demand for walkable, urban spaces.

“This film focuses on how the built environment has reflected – or some would say driven – the American Dream and how urban planners and downtown developers are re-adapting their strategies to meet the needs of a modern and more environmentally conscious society,” says Teri Rogers, executive producer and CEO of T2 Entertainment.

“The Next American Dream” also focuses on the importance of arts centers, sports arenas, and entertainment districts in creating the walkable, urban experiences today’s generations are demanding.

“Since 2005, we have had unprecedented access to the \$4.5 billion planning and reconstruction efforts to revitalize the downtown urban core in Kansas City, Missouri,” says Rogers. “The film blends the story of this city’s comeback with commentary from national urban planning experts, archival footage and interviews with the people who are returning to live in our downtowns, especially Gen Y residents and empty-nesters.”

“The Next American Dream” is a collaboration between **T2 Entertainment** and **Inland Sea Productions**, both based in Kansas City, Missouri. T2 is a nationally recognized visual design, digital production and post production company that creates content across multiple platforms. Inland Sea Productions’ Emmy®-award winning producers Aimee Larrabee and John Altman are highly seasoned filmmakers and writers, widely known for their PBS documentaries and other entertainment projects. The two companies are currently in post production on an IMAX film, “We The People,” in partnership with the National Archives and Records Administration, due out in 2010.

[www.nextamericandream.com](http://www.nextamericandream.com)

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