



Ypsilanti Housing Commission  
601 Armstrong Drive  
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## Youth Documentary Celebrates Parkridge Heritage Opening Night Event Open to the Public

**Ypsilanti, Michigan** - Organized by the Ypsilanti Housing Commission, a group of local youth spent their summer researching the history of Ypsilanti's Parkridge community and making a documentary celebrating its important past and promising future. The documentary includes interviews from elders in our community who migrated north in the 1940's towards the promise of jobs and a new life in Michigan. The youth also interview current families with their stories of the recent past as the buildings degraded to the exciting future promised by the recent renovation and rebuild of their homes.

"I didn't know we had all this right here in Parkridge" explains Martaze Jones, one of the youth filmmakers. "I've lived here my whole life and didn't know Parkridge was the hub of African American life for so long. The new buildings look so great – it's been good to be able to tell our story so new residents can know the history of their new community."

"When we decided to rebuild Parkridge Homes, we learned that the 100-unit complex was designed by the African-American architect Hilyard Robinson and didn't have a good way to tell the story of this great community and its connection to the Great Migration and segregation in Willow Run," shares Zac Fosler, Executive Director of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission. "We're really looking forward to using this documentary to welcome new residents to our community." Project lead Charles Peterson of Talent By Talent adds, "We had so many elders eager to tell their stories. Not only did the youth get to re-learn their history, but they also have the chance to pass it on to so these powerful stories are never forgotten."

The opening night is free and open to the public. Donations gratefully accepted at the door:

September 16, 4:00pm  
Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti.

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The Ypsilanti Housing Commission is the public housing commission of the City of Ypsilanti. The YHC provides affordable housing opportunities to moderate and low-income families and individuals in the City of Ypsilanti. The YHC owns 342 units of affordable housing within the City. It is the project sponsor of Hamilton Crossing, a nationally recognized, award-winning 144-unit affordable housing development.