

Rondo: Beyond the Pavement **Now Showing in Amazon Prime's All Voices Film Festival**

This documentary and podcast created by Twin Cities' youth shares the voices of a thriving Saint Paul neighborhood torn apart by the Interstate 94 corridor.

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SAINT PAUL (June 11, 2019) –

Saint Paul Almanac, in partnership with St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) and High School for Recording Arts (HSRA), presents *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement*, a new student-produced film and podcast that chronicles the history of a once-thriving African American neighborhood torn apart by the Interstate 94 corridor.

We are honored to announce that *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement* has been selected for inclusion in Amazon Prime's brand-new All Voices Film Festival for short films whose content celebrates underrepresented communities and the diversity of our world. The festival online screening window will take place between June 3 and June 24. Stream *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement* on Amazon Prime Video [here](#).

The filmmakers have a chance to win \$25,000 in prizes based on US consumer engagement: *"After this window, Amazon will narrow submissions to the top ten submissions based on US customer engagement. Customer engagement is determined by metrics, including but not limited to how many people watch, how long they watch, and customer ratings. We encourage you to promote your film. A final panel of judges, which we expect will include the co-Head of Movies at Amazon Studios, Julie Rapaport, Head of Diversity at Amazon Studios Latasha Gillespie and Founder and CEO of IMDb Col Needham, will review these ten titles and select their favorites in July. The final selection of winners will be determined by the film's message, overall quality, execution, diversity of the films creators/cast/crew, and the judges' discretion."*—Amazon

[Rondo: Beyond the Pavement is also an official selection in the San Francisco Black Film Festival screening, held June 14 at 2 p.m. PST.](#)

Since its release in November 2018, *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement* has screened at six international film competitions and festivals. For a complete list of film festival screenings, visit [Rondo: Beyond the Pavement.](#)

About *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement*

“When we started this project, I did not know the history of the Rondo community. I did not understand just how important this project would become for so many people. It is larger than I ever imagined. Now I am seriously pursuing a career in film.”—*Angelo Taiwo Bush, HSRA senior year student*

Since February 2018, youth from the Rondo community have been learning documentary skills from Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Bianca Rhodes and production skills from audio maker Katharine DeCelle. Rhodes produces *Candy Fresh* on SPNN and DeCelle is the director of Frogtown Radio. Youth artists Aubriana Jackson, Jasmine McBride, Angelo Taiwo Bush, Jose Quintanilla, Harvey Bradley, Deonte Jones, Charles Miller, Amina DeLeon, Destiny Roberts, and Jevrye Morris worked together to create the film. HSRA student Morgan Welch managed the publicity campaign.

“Learning about what happened in the Rondo community while interviewing those who witnessed their homes being destroyed was heartbreaking,” says Jevrye Morris, one of 16 students involved in the film project. “It was astounding the resilience they showed. It lit a fire in me. Rondo never stopped trying to rebuild what was there. It gave me a lot of confidence in myself to go after what I love to do in life. I learned that I-94 going through Rondo was a power struggle to limit what the Black community could actually do. It didn’t stop us at all.”

Georgia Fort was the lead editor on the film. Clarence White and Kemet Imhotep provided additional mentoring. HSRA instructor Scott Herold mentored students on how to publicize the film and submit it to international film festivals.

Saint Paul Almanac’s Storymobile, led by director Melvin Giles and manager Darius Gray, wanted to collect and preserve the historical memory of the Rondo

neighborhood from a multigenerational perspective. Storymobile worked with Rondo youth to record stories of Rondo that give an intimate view of the impact the destruction of the neighborhood and the construction of Interstate 94 had on people's lives and how that impact continues today.

"If we know who we are and who we came from, it helps us to go forward in our lives," says Rondo elder Donna Evans in the film. "If we know nothing about our history, then how are we to know about our future?"

Saint Paul Almanac is a literary-centered arts organization that has been publishing an annual book of Saint Paul stories and poems for more than a decade. We share stories across cultures and cultivate dialogue to promote understanding, relationships, and collaborative action.

High School for Recording Arts is dedicated to providing all young people a chance to realize their full potential, despite any previous setbacks. As we engage students through music and the exploration and operation of the music business, we demonstrate that core learning areas and real-world, twenty-first century skills can be acquired at the same time. More than just earning a high school diploma, HSRA prepares students for a positive post-secondary education and life.

St. Paul Neighborhood Network's mission is to empower people to use media and communications to better lives, use authentic voice, and build a common understanding.

We hope that *Rondo: Beyond the Pavement* will inspire other cities to share the voices of marginalized neighborhoods that disappeared because of the construction of the interstate system during the late 1950s and early '60s.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Access grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.