



April 25, 2013

**The *Designing Healthy Communities* Project
To Produce A Town Hall Community Engagement Event in New York on April 30th**

Panel Discussion will be recorded for broadcast on THIRTEEN, WLIW21, and NJTV this May as part of the DHC 2.0 Initiative

Santa Monica, CA. The Media Policy Center announced today that it will produce its first major community engagement activity, a town hall meeting-style panel discussion, derived from its nationally-distributed four-hour PBS series, *Designing Healthy Communities*. The DHC 2.0 panel discussion will be held in New York City on April 30 at the Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center, operator of New York public television stations THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and NJTV, New Jersey's public television network.

The series, *Designing Healthy Communities*, examines the connection between poor community design and burgeoning health costs based upon key public health indices: obesity, diabetes, heart, asthma, cancer and depression, a concept first researched by Dr. Richard Jackson, a pediatrician-turned-public-health officer. The New York panel discussion will pick up the conversation about the common characteristics of unhealthy communities and how they can be changed with area experts.

Fifteen panelists, led by series host and narrator Dr. Jackson, will discuss a variety of topics from the series, including reliance on fossil fuel for navigation; limited walking space; lack of access to green parks, trails, and gardens; and pollution and more. Discussion will also touch upon the impact of recent events on the health of local communities. The three-hour recorded discussion will be moderated by Mike Schneider, managing editor of NJTV's weeknight news program, *NJ Today with Mike Schneider*. The Media Policy Center will edit the content to a two-hour broadcast in May.

THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and NJTV will each broadcast both the original four-hour DHC documentary series in May, and the two-hour town hall discussion. (*Check local listings or the www.designinghealthycommunities.org website.*)

Panelists, in alphabetical order, include: Darrin Anderson, Deputy Director, NJ Partnership for Healthy Kids; Sarah Barbo, Graduate Student, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies; Olivia Barry, HS Senior at Riverdale Country School, Bronx, NY; Adrian Benepe, Senior Vice President, Trust for Public Land; Jane Brody, Personal Health columnist for The New York Times; Earl Brown, Executive Director, The Partnership for a Healthier NYC; Dana Bourland, Vice President, The JPB Foundation; Mindy Fullilove, Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; Maida Galvez, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, pediatrics, Mt. Sinai Hospital; Paul Goldberger, Architecture Critic for The New Yorker; Elaine Gross, President, ERASE Racism; Fred Kent, President, Project for Public Spaces; Tyrik LaCruise, HS Senior at Fordham Prep, Bronx, NY; Larry Murphy, NER Area Manager, CDM Smith; Tom Wright, Executive Director, Regional Plan Association.

Dr. Richard Jackson, Professor/Chair Environmental Health Science, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, is host and narrator of the four-hour series. He is the 2012 Heinz Award winner in the Environment, Sedgwick Award winner from the American Public Health Association, inductee into the Institute of Medicine, Honorary Board member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Institute of Architects. He is a Tisch Fellow in NYC starting October 2013.

Mike Schneider, News Anchor and Managing Editor, *NJ Today with Mike Schneider*, is Moderator of the town hall discussion. Schneider, a long-time area resident, has spent more than three decades reporting for national network and local Tri-State outlets.

The *Designing Healthy Communities* five-year project is executive produced and directed by Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, founders of the Media Policy Center, and written, edited and produced by Beverly Baroff.

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