

A RECKONING IN BOSTON

Use your screening of **A RECKONING IN BOSTON** as a tool for educating your community about structural racism and the lived experiences of Black communities in cities. This guide offers some background information, helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to act! handout



About the film

White suburban filmmaker James Rutenbeck comes to Boston's Dorchester neighborhood to document student engagement with the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a tuition-free college-level program for those who have experienced homelessness, transitioned out of incarceration, or faced barriers to a college education. Over time, James is forced to come to terms with a flawed film premise and his own complicity in racist structures as he spends time with two of the course's students: Kafi Dixon, a 44-year-old city bus driver who has struggled with homelessness and is the founder of an urban farming and business development cooperative for women of color; and Carl Chandler, a sharp and witty 65-year old pensioner and full-time guardian to his young grandson.

About the filmmaker

James Rutenbeck is a two-time recipient of the Alfred I. du Pont Columbia Journalism Award. His films have screened at Cinema du Reel, Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery, Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival and Robert Flaherty Film Seminar. James was a 2019/20 Fellow at the Film Study Center at Harvard University and 2021 Poynter Fellow at Yale University.

ready to watch!

Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening a success!

1. Publicize Your Event! This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit <https://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/areckoninginboston> to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at info@bullfrogcommunities.com if you need help getting started!

2. Visualize Your Goal! What do you hope to achieve with your screening? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about issues raised in the film, gain support or recruit volunteers for a local grassroots campaign, or raise funds for a group on your campus or in your community. Or, you can simply use the screening to provide an opportunity for your audience to watch and learn together.

3. Where To Host? Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating an in-person community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouse spaces, a local business, outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings. Virtual screenings can be hosted on <https://streaming.bullfrogcommunities.com>, or by using a customized screening room on Vimeo.

4. Find A Partner! Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Participate in a panel discussion or Zoom meeting after the screening? Some potential partners include: student groups at schools, universities and colleges; a local public or campus library; representatives from local religious congregations or faith-based community groups; local chapters of national/global activist or grassroots organizations; faculty members at nearby universities and colleges; reporters/journalists from local news publications such as newspapers and magazines; local nonprofits; and any community organizations that share goals or views with the film you are screening.

5. Invite A Guest Speaker! Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact representatives of local non-profits, faith groups, journalists and reporters from local media outlets, or teachers and professors who have expertise and/or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend your screening—in person, via Skype or Zoom, etc—and participate in a discussion or Q&A session with your audience.

6. Engage Your Audience! Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!— which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

7. Spread The Word! Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Instagram, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can download a screening poster and press photos that can be used to help publicize your event: https://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/reck_resources

8. Tell Us How It Went! Visit <https://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/areckoninginboston> to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film's discussion page (if available) to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

ready to act!

handout

The Clemente Course in the Humanities — <https://www.clementecourse.org/>

The Clemente Course in the Humanities provides a transformative educational experience for adults facing economic hardship and adverse circumstances. Its free college humanities courses empower students to further their education and careers, become effective advocates for themselves and their families, and engage actively in the cultural and political lives of their communities.

Common Good Cooperatives — <https://www.commongoodcooperatives.com/>

Founded by Kori Dixon, Common Good Cooperatives innovates small business development and participation, peer-led by women of color. Its mission is to create environments of health for lower resourced women of color in the working-class families of New England

Initiative for a Competitive Inner City — <https://icic.org/>

Founded in 1994 by Harvard Business School Professor Michael Porter, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City is a national nonprofit research and advisory organization and the leading authority on U.S. inner city economies and the businesses that thrive there.

Urban Institute — <https://www.urban.org/features/structural-racism-america>

The Urban Institute examines how structural racism continues to disproportionately segregate communities of color from access to opportunity and upward mobility by making it more difficult for people of color to secure quality education, jobs, housing, healthcare, and equal treatment in the criminal justice system.

Racial Equity Tools — <https://www.racialequitytools.org>

Racial Equity Tools is designed to support individuals and groups working to achieve racial equity. It offers tools, research, tips, curricula, and ideas for people who want to increase their understanding and to help those working for racial justice at every level – in systems, organizations, communities, and the culture at large.

Boston Public Health Commission: Racial Justice and Health Equity

<https://bphc.org/whatwedo/racialjusticeandhealthequity/Pages/rjhe-home.aspx>

Boston's residents are majority people of color, and Boston continues to be on the list of most racially segregated cities. This racial segregation results in great differences in health outcomes by zip code. Furthering its commitment to improving the health of communities of color, BPHC has been devoted to advancing racial justice and health equity since 2000.