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# FINAL REPORT

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**Project Code:** L-2019-024  
**Contractor:** Big Heavy World  
**Prepared By:** James Lockridge, Executive Director  
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**Date Approved:** September, 25th, 2023

**242 MAIN DOCUMENTARY FILM, PUBLIC ARCHIVE,  
& INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT**

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For more than 30 years, 242 Main was a gathering spot for the youth of northwestern Vermont. Organized by the City of Burlington's Youth Office (started by Bernie Sanders when he was mayor), 242 provided a haven for young misfits and fans of underground music. It was part music venue, part musician proving ground, and part teen drop-in center. With programming driven by teens, it became America's longest-running all-ages punk rock venue and a sanctuary anchored in the hearts of thousands.

After decades of deferred maintenance and neglect, the city closed the doors to Memorial Auditorium, the city-owned building that 242 Main is located in. The structure was deemed too unsafe to occupy. When 242 Main was shuttered in 2016, no city leaders spoke about what it had meant to generations of young people. The city's mayor was chasing a dream of bulldozing Memorial Auditorium to build a new hockey arena with a local university. Youth created a significant cultural legacy in Vermont at 242 Main and its story was in danger of being lost.

This project aimed to meaningfully and broadly capture the history of 242 Main and to ensure this story was accessible to modern audiences. 242 Main was a symbol of a city's commitment to youth, and a safe space where many new generations of Vermonters experienced what it means to think critically and build community with peers. It was a direct contributor to the culture of Vermonters who carry those values forward to this day. The imprint of 242 Main on our region continues to inspire advocacy in support of teen-led cultural spaces and civic resources that foster participation in society, the arts, and the economy.

Our grant-funded project included three components: A documentary film; a public archive of historic ephemera and interviews gathered for the film; and an interactive museum display.

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## 1. PROJECT SYNOPSIS

The project produced a documentary video, interactive museum display, and public archive about 242 Main, a historic teen center and music venue located in Burlington, Vermont. Sixty-five interviews were recorded and transcribed, and hundreds of photographs and posters were collected. Outputs include: 1) A film about the historic significance and social meaning of this youth-led teen center that was the longest-running all-ages punk rock venue in the country, an initiative of Mayor Bernie Sanders' city youth office; 2) A hands-on interactive museum video exhibit featuring selectable content curated by regional high school students from interview transcripts and footage; and 3) An online archive of full interview footage and all other poster and photographic artifacts collected during production to be a resource to municipalities, researchers, and other youth programs. These outcomes are intended to illuminate how youth-led programs can succeed over a period of decades and what the values are that give cities a reason to have them; access to primary sources of information to inform best practices for those developing youth-led programming in this or other regions; a historic record of a significant contribution to Lake Champlain heritage by a traditionally marginalized demographic population; and public insight that helps create equitable multigenerational empathy for informing future policy and programming decisions.

## 2. TASKS COMPLETED

### **Deliverable 1 of 3: Documentary Film**

The documentary began under the creative direction of filmmaker Bill Simmon (photo, below), a writer and media educator in northern Vermont. Bill's award-winning documentary films include 'Digital Pamphleteer' (2007), about political blogger, Steve Benen, and 'High Water Mark: The Rise & Fall of The Pants (2016),' about legendary Vermont band, The Pants. Bill was the Director of Media Services at Vermont Community Access Media, a nonprofit community media center in Burlington, Vermont.



Simmon conducted interviews with 66 subjects including 242 Main staff, participants, and civic leaders. With remote volunteer assistance, interviews were also conducted in the Washington, D.C. area. Full-length interviews were recorded with Andrew Paley; Ben Hiller; Bobby Hackney; Brian LaClair; Bruce Duncan; Carina Driscoll; Carolyn Fine; Casey Rea; Police Chief Brandon del Pozo; Chris Lamothe; Dan Bolles; Daryl Rabidoux; Dave Lawrence; David Lamoureux; Diana Halvorsen; Diane Sullivan; Emily McKern; Eric Pope; Erick Wisowaty; Ethan Azarian; Gary Lane; Ian MacKaye; Isaac Butcher; Jackson Balling; Jennifer Blair; Jesse Bridges; Jessica Amelia; Jessica Morley; Joe Atherton; Justin Gonyea; Kecia Gaboriault; Kurt Eckert; Lauren Mazotta; Leif Hunneman; Lowell Thompson; Mark Redmond; Martha Pullen; Matt Kimball; Max Gregor; Mike Blair; Mike Cram; Mike Gatti; Mike Halvorsen; Mikey X Wierzbicki; Nick Grandchamp; Paul Allison (Ratdog); Peg Tasse; Peter Clavelle; Reba Porter; Rebekah Krushenick; Richard Bailey; Ryan Krushenick; Sam Karcher; Selene Colburn; Seth Warhol-Streeter & Ben Hiller; Simon Brody; Spencer Crispe; Sterling Dew; Steve Flemer; Todd Rheault; Torsten Rau; Tyler Daniel Bean; Jane O'Meara Sanders; Jodi Stone; Eric Burdo; and Dana Shepard.

Simmon produced a trailer and began reviewing transcriptions that were prepared by volunteers including Kathryn Baldwin; Ryan Breen; Samantha Burke; Richard Ferber; Cadence Gentley; Ann Harvey; Alice Koeninger; Catherine Krueger; Andrea Lenco; Elizabeth McKnight; Jasper Minson; Steve Murray; Dan O'Brien; Martha Pullen; Ben

Reagan; Justin Robbins; Jay Strek; Ashley Truax; and Kaitlin Zupanicic. Simmon's intention was to generate a narrative arc consisting of a timeline and topics found within the transcripts.

Progress with the film's production became halting for a period during the COVID-19 pandemic, then faltered due to personal issues affecting Simmon. The creative leadership was supportively passed to documentary filmmaker Mark Covino (photo, below). Covino is a director, producer, and editor. His first feature film, 'A Band Called Death,' won the Audience Award at South by Southwest in 2013 and was released theatrically to rave reviews around the world. It has a 94% Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. His second film, the award-winning documentary, 'The Crest,' was released by Gravitas Ventures in 2019. Covino also produced the sci-fi adventure film, 'Axcellerator' (2020), starring Sean Young ('Blade Runner'), Sam Jones ('Flash Gordon') and Maxwell Caulfield ('Empire Records'). Simmon continues to assist Covino with production of the film.



Covino re-initiated the process of reviewing transcripts to generate a narrative arc reflecting his skills and aesthetic. In May 2023, following slightly more than a year of constructing a 'hero's journey' narrative, Covino arrived at a first assembly cut of the film. This version demonstrates a complete storyline and that the film has neared completion.

Throughout this period of film production, the community participated in providing photographs, video footage, and concert posters from 242 Main's 30+ years of active programming. Hundreds of images, artwork and news articles were provided by CCTV

Archives / Center for Media and Democracy; Trevor Ayer; Kathy Biscardi; The Burlington Free Press; Barbara Chase; Peter Comley; Spencer Crispe; Geoff Daniel; John Dapo; Evan Engisch; Simone Evans-Diffenderfer; Carolyn Fine; Gregory Gaskill; Mike Gatti; Will Geisler; Charlie Gianonni; Justin Gonyea; Kshanti Greene; Eric Halbach; Preston Hall; Elisha Johnson; Jason Krak; Colette Kulig; Jeff Lamoureux; Kevin Niquette; Art Patriquin; Reba Porter; Joshua Richmond; Paul Rushford; Eric Sherman; Loren Tindall; Nic Vartuli; Maxx Vick; Jason Weiner; and Jess Wisloski. High school student volunteers also animated still photographs into pseudo-3d or 'parallax' video animations for the film.

The next steps in production include fundraising to contract production of title art; color correction; audio post-production; and pressing of a vinyl soundtrack. Covino will be finalizing the edit with the addition of archival video footage, photography, and poster artwork. Volunteers Matt Kimball and Spencer Crispe curated the soundtrack with music from bands that performed during each decade of 242 Main. The soundtrack will be pressed in Vermont at the Burlington Record Plant.

During film production the project was aided with support from a State Department program, Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA). A YLA Fellow, Laura Bermúdez, was placed with Big Heavy World to produce an impact distribution strategy for festival promotion of the film. Bermúdez is a film director, educator, emerging curator, cultural activist, and social entrepreneur. She is the co-founder and an active member of the Honduran Women Filmmakers Collective and the co-creator of the First Film Festival Created by Women in Honduras 'Alice's Dream.' Bermúdez is also Co-creator of the First Feminist Film Education Program "A Look of My Own" financed by the Central American Women Fund FCAM.

Bermúdez' impact distribution strategy document outlines goals of raising awareness of the value of conserving youth-led cultural spaces; youth empowerment; punk rock history; and Vermont's historic contribution to national history via 242 Main. It guides the film toward audiences of youth; university students; key actors in the cultural, government, and academic sectors; civic leaders; international audiences; and the general public, age 13+. The strategy includes screenings at film festivals that have strong affinity for the documentary topic and via television and digital screen rights and licensing.

Supporters of the filmmaking process have included the City of Burlington; Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department; Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership; Vermont Community Foundation; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Lake Champlain Basin Program; Northfield Savings Bank; Vermont Humanities and Paul Kerr. The film credits include the statement, "This project was funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. NEIWPC manages LCBP's personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and provides input on the program's activities through a



partnership with the LCBP Steering Committee. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent those of NEIWPC, the LCBP Steering Committee, or GLFC, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.”

### **Deliverable 2 of 3: The Archive**

The effort to gather the historic record of 242 Main has been intensive. Artifacts that have been collected include newspaper articles (43 from the Burlington Free Press); archival concert and public access television video footage; and hundreds of photographs and concert posters. 360-degree footage of the ‘final’ 242 Main concert in 2016, featuring over 20 bands, was also filmed, as well as standard footage and professional photography of the event. Portrait photographs were taken in the studio during the filming of interviews (See Bobby Hackney, Jr. image, below), and each full interview was transcribed by a volunteer.



Most of the items above have been published to a public archive, with the intention of this archive becoming recognized as an asset to historians and academics researching municipal and youth services. Interview transcripts, photo portraits, and photographs are published to the open-source collections catalog platform Omeka on the

bigheavyworld.com website. Content will be distributed more incrementally and directly to the public as the film is released and work to promote it begins. The project received special permission from photographer Tim Snow to include his very high-quality documentary photographs of the 'final' show at 242 Main in this public archive (See The Path by Tim Snow, below).

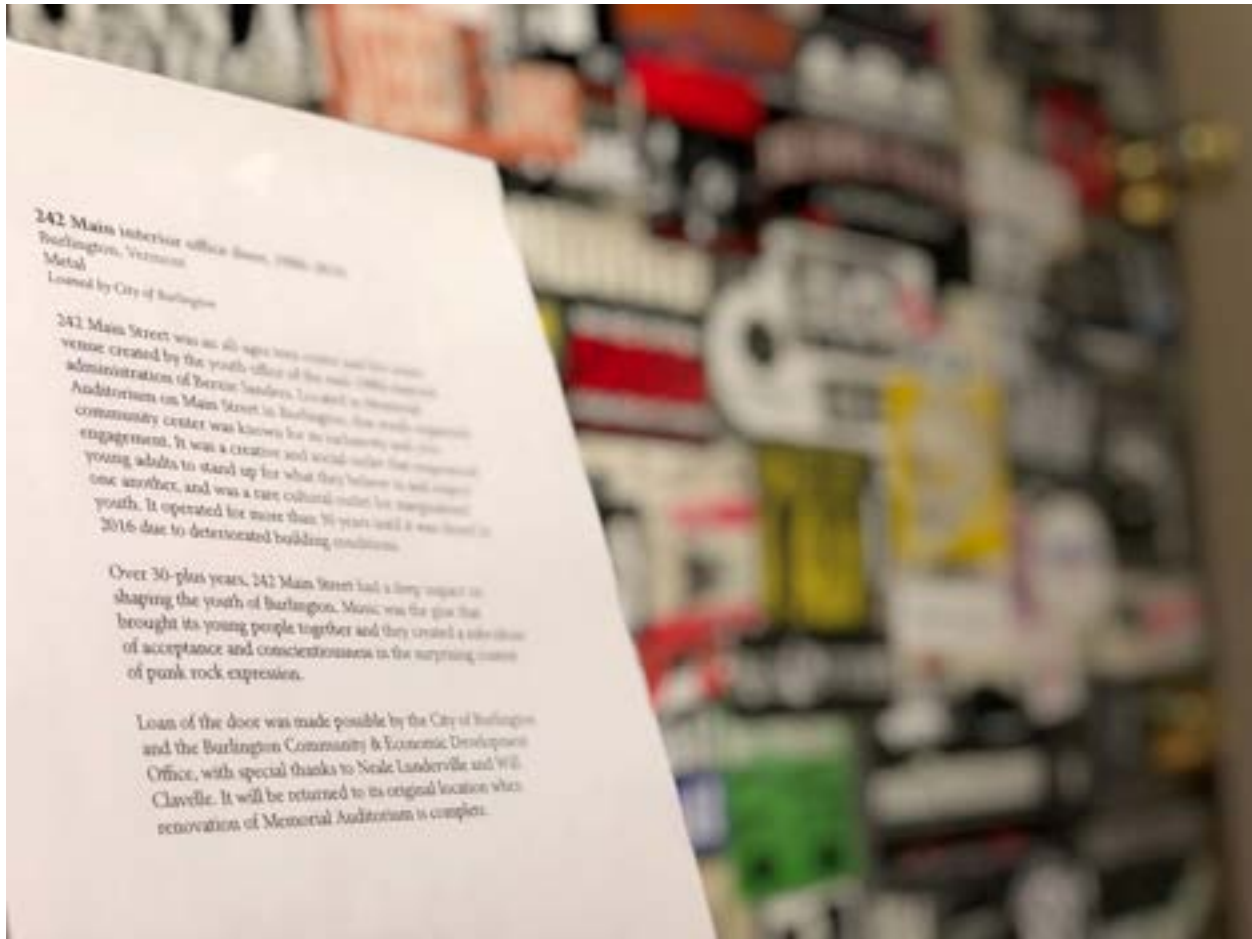


### **Deliverable 3 of 3: Interactive Museum Exhibit**

An interactive museum exhibit is on display at the Tiny Museum of Vermont Music History in Burlington. It includes a touchscreen computer that interfaces to 57 clips highlighting content from full interviews that offers especially compelling insight into the human experience of 242 Main as experienced by youth, staff, or civic leaders throughout the institution's 30+ year history.



Other 242 Main-related artifacts and video surround the touch-screen exhibit: Concert photographs by Matthew Thorsen; a video of 242 Main concert poster images; and the door to the 242 Main office which is on loan to Big Heavy World for stewardship until it can be returned to a reinstated 242 Main space, should Memorial Auditorium be returned to occupancy again.



The 242 Main exhibit was first displayed in the Local History Gallery of the Vermont Historical Society Museum during the first six months of 2019. The museum had approximately 6,958 visitors February through July, of which 2,537 were general visitors and 3,624 were with school groups or field trips. The Big Heavy World exhibit that included the interactive 242 Main kiosk and artifacts was honored with the 2019 League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (LLHSM) Award of Excellence in Exhibitions/Public Programs.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

Our three products each entailed different basic methodologies specific to art forms and cultural heritage preservation practices, above. The film was produced to capture an important component of local cultural history with civic relevance. The filmmaking activity was leveraged to compile and publish a public archive that invites interpretation into the future. Elements of this archive including poster art and interview clips were packaged to have appeal and accessibility to the public. The applied methodology generated the greatest possible exposure and social benefit in return for the investment.

## 4. QUALITY ASSURANCE TASKS COMPLETED

Quality Assurance Tasks were not applicable to this project.

## 5. DELIVERABLES COMPLETED

Deliverables include 1) A feature-length documentary film (assembly edit); 2) A public archive of materials gathered during production of the film including photographs, poster art, and transcripts; 3) An interactive museum exhibit. These are each described more completely in the narrative above.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Our outcome goals were to illuminate how youth-led programs can succeed over a period of decades and what the values are that give cities a reason to have them; provide access to primary sources of information to inform best practices for others developing youth-led programming in this or other regions; establish a historic record of a significant contribution to Lake Champlain heritage by a traditionally marginalized demographic population; and give the public insight that helps create equitable multigenerational empathy for informing future policy and programming decisions. These goals are being achieved.

This project also successfully addresses the following actions and tasks described in the 'Support Awareness and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Resources' and 'Engage and Support Community & Management Partners' chapters of the 2017 Opportunities for Action Management Plan. It supports Objective III.C. Support Awareness and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Resources: (III.C.1): Build on existing knowledge, make new discoveries of the history, culture, and special resources of the CVNHP, and make this information accessible to all. (III.C.2): Support the conservation of the historical, archeological, natural, and cultural resources of the CVNHP. (III.C.2.a): Develop a voluntary stewardship program to strengthen non-regulatory protection of cultural and natural heritage resources. Objective III.A. Engage and Support Community & Management Partners (III.A.4): Serve as a conduit for information, build professional capacity among stakeholders, and foster strong working relationships among the partners of the CVNHP. (III.A.4.b): Encourage cooperation and enhance communication among partners within the CVNHP. The project will reach new audiences of the general public, local youth, film festival audiences, online audiences, Visitors to the Vermont History Museum and other public exhibits; municipal youth programming staff or youth service providers; and likely academic researchers. The film will provide Q&A with its producer and filmmaker at screenings.

The City of Burlington innovated when it established 242 Main and set itself on a course to make history by valuing the energy and vision of its youth and providing an

environment for them to gather and have free expression. Youth treasured their experiences there; this project has provided a framework to preserve and honor their memories and capture the importance of 242 Main. Big Heavy World seeks to commemorate 242 Main for many reasons, including its importance to the region's youth and musicians; the platform it provided for community engagement and empowerment; and for its historic supremacy as the country's longest-running all-ages punk rock concert venue. Grant support from LCBP/NEIWPCC made this possible, and we are deeply grateful.

## 7. REFERENCES

- Documentary film interview excerpts that populate the interactive museum exhibit, <https://bigheavyworld.com/exhibit-242-main-interactive>
- Film trailer, <https://youtu.be/vtecbDGAZcU>
- Documentary film, [assembly cut](#), private URL.
- Archive materials, <https://omeka.bigheavyworld.com/>
- Public status report, <https://bigheavyworld.com/latest-news/2023/5/30/pvd4tptmjgqxi95mau8wxl45kul002>
- VHS Museum exhibit press release, <https://mailchi.mp/c5315d7cbc72/press-release-vt-history-museum-showcases-blending-of-state-music-industry-art>

## 8. APPENDICES

### **Appended Documents:**

Draft film credits

### **Photos:**

Filmmaker Bill Simmon edits the 242 Main documentary film. Photo by James Lockridge.

Filmmaker Mark Covino edits the 242 Main documentary film. Photo by Mark Covino.

Portrait of musician Bobby Hackney, Jr., during documentary interview. Photo by James Lockridge.

The Path performs on the 242 Main stage, December 2016. Photo by Tim Snow.

### **Electronic Data:**

Email your Project Officer with any electronic datasets you have generated through your project.

**No Stage Diving**

Directed by  
Mark Covino

Cinematography  
Bill Simmon

Produced by  
James Lockridge

A project of  
Big Heavy World

With support from  
The City of Burlington  
Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department  
Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership  
Vermont Community Foundation  
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission  
Lake Champlain Basin Program  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Vermont Humanities  
Paul Kerr

Music  
Spencer Crispe  
Matthew Kimball

Featuring

Paul 'Ratdog' Allison  
Ratdogs Army

Joe Atherton

Ethan Azarian  
AZN, Hollywood Indians, Four Wheel Pig, Orange Mothers

Richard Bailey

Jackson Balling

Tyler Daniel Bean  
Tyler Daniel Bean, Doom Service, Ghosting, Fall of the Machines, Three Pages Short,  
Screaming Skull, Polite Society

**242 MAIN DOCUMENTARY FILM, PUBLIC ARCHIVE,  
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Jennifer Blair

Mike Blair  
Time To Think, The Shunned, Dysfunction, Five Seconds Expired, Slush

Dan Bolles  
Ska-Ka-Doodle-Do, The Skampahrodites, The Middle Eight

Jesse Bridges

Simon Brody  
The Champions, Drowningman

Eric Burdo

Isaac Butcher

Peter Clavelle

Selene Colburn

Mike Cram

Spencer Crispe  
In Reach, My Revenge, Bulletproof, Fight Back

Sterling Dew  
Twelve Times Over, Champions, Better Off Dead, Colorblind

Carina Driscoll

Bruce Duncan

Kurt Eckert  
Joined at the Head, Worship

Carolyn Fine

Steve Flemer  
Screaming Broccoli, The Caste, Nation of Hate (NOH), ReCt2

Kecia Gaboriault

Mike Gatti  
Jesus Nut

Justin Gonyea  
Disconnect, Crucial Times, Hunger, No Submission, The Dead Electric, 10k Volt Ghost, Doom  
Service, Crime Scene, Screaming Skull



Nick Grandchamp

Orange Juice, Midnight Saints, Weight of the World, Polaroid Love, Get A Grip, Sink Or Swim,  
People Watchers, River City Rebels

Max Gregor

Drive the Hour, Fight Back, Bulletproof

Bobby Hackney

Raw Fish, Fear of Flying, Undecided, Common Ground, In Reach, The Hemlock Verdict, My  
Revenge, The Static Age, Rough Francis

Diana Halvorsen

Mike Halvorsen

Common Ground, A.O.D., All This I Did For Thee, The Worst Five Minutes of Your Life, Eta  
Carinae, My Revenge

Ben Hiller

Uninformed

Leif Hunneman

}hexdump{, da'ath, rising!man!incinerator, state vector collapse, recursive occlusion, chief  
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Eugene Hutz

Uksusnik, Epitaph, The Fags, The Cossacks, Gogol Bordello

Sam Karcher

Conrad B, Perfect Disaster

Matthew Kimball

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Disconnect, Fight Back, Change of Ideas, No Submission, Ten Forward, Sink Or Swim,  
Screaming Skull, Crime Scene, The People Watchers, The Path, Void Bringer

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Brian LaClair

Better Things

Chris Lamotte

A.F.U., Lost Grip, Twelve Times Over, O.N.E.

David Lamoureaux

Joined at the Head, Worship

Gary Lane

Metally Insane, Boneyard, Chronic Decay

Dave Lawrence  
Evenmind, Stone Bullet

Ian MacKaye  
Fugazi, Minor Threat, Coriky, The Evens, Embrace, Pailhead, Egg Hunt, The Teen Idles, The  
Nig-Heist, Three, The Slinkees

Lauren Mazotta

Emily McKern

Jessica Morley

Andrew Paley  
The Static Age, The Hemlock Verdict, In Reach, Army of Darkness, River City Rebels, Norm,  
Weave

Eric Pope

Reba Porter

Chief Brandon del Pozo

Martha Pullen  
Shipwreck, Last Night's Surrender

Daryl Rabidoux  
Rocketsled, Drowningman, The Cancer Conspiracy, Carrigan

Torsten Rau  
KAKAROT, Eye of the Beholder, Dear Gravity, The Engraved Conflict

Casey Rea  
Rocketsled, The Halogens

Mark Redmond

Todd Rheault

Jane Sanders

Jodi Stone

Diane Sullivan  
Dirty Blondes, Everybody's Favorite Irish Drinking Songs Band, Enemy of the People

Peg Tassej  
Peg Tassej & Proud of It, The Velvet Ovum Band, Leper Disco Squad

**242 MAIN DOCUMENTARY FILM, PUBLIC ARCHIVE,  
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Lowell Thompson  
The Welterweights, The Essex Green, Ryan Ober and The Romans, Barbacoa, Rayland Baxter,  
Honk Tonk Tuesday, Brett Hughes, Josh Panda, Crown Pilot

Seth Warhol-Streeter

Mikey X Wierzbicki  
The Scams, Fight Back, My Revenge!, Crucial Times, Disconnect, No Submission, Crime  
Scene, Hellascope

Eric Wisowaty  
Tyler Daniel Bean, limp diskette, Eric Chase Wisowaty

and special thanks to  
[Interview subjects who aren't in the film]

The Crew

Vermont  
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Images, Video, Poster Art & News Articles Provided by  
CCTV Archives / Center for Media and Democracy

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Kevin Niquette

Art Patriquin

Reba Porter

Joshua Richmond

Paul Rushford

Eric Sherman

Loren Tindall

Nic Vartuli

Maxx Vick

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Jess Wisloski

Archival Video Filmed by

242 Main Staff

The Wards by Paula Crowe

The Wards by Gary Lane

Jesus Nut by Art Patriquin

Slapshot, Sam Black Church by Steve & Wayne Shepard

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Hemlock Verdict, Dillinger Escape Plan, Shadows Fall, & Darkest Hour by Nick Paley  
(and others whose names we wish we knew!)

Transcriptions  
Kathryn Baldwin  
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Samantha Burke  
Richard Ferber  
Cadence Gentley  
Ann Harvey  
Alice Koeninger  
Catherine Krueger  
Andrea Lenco  
Elizabeth McKnight  
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Ilana Wagener  
Trinity Welkar

Explore the 242 Main archives at [bigheavyworld.com](http://bigheavyworld.com)

Very special thanks to  
Michael Blood  
Dan Bolles  
Jim Brangan  
Jesse Bridges  
Luis Calderin  
Trevor Chase  
Anna Colavito  
Eileen Corcoran  
James Fogler  
Chris Jarvis  
Jeff Howlett  
Matt Kimball

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Ian MacKaye  
Craig Mitchell  
Jordan Mitchell  
Seth Mobley  
Meghan O'Rourke  
Jason Raymond  
Tess Taylor  
and  
Best Buy  
Vermont Historical Society  
Vermont History Museum  
U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative

Free public screenings are encouraged.

This film was produced with facilities provided by  
Media Factory in Burlington, Vermont.  
[mediafactory.org](http://mediafactory.org)

This project was funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. NEIWPCC manages LCBP's personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and provides input on the program's activities through a partnership with the LCBP Steering Committee. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent those of NEIWPCC, the LCBP Steering Committee, or GLFC, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Big Heavy World  
Discover Vermont's original music at [bigheavyworld.com](http://bigheavyworld.com)

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No animals were harmed in the making of this film.

In memory of Mike Cram, Mike Maddox, and Eric Wisowaty.