

Documentary explores benefits and consequences of urban renewal in Johannesburg

Urban LandMark is providing support for the post-production phase of *Battle for Johannesburg*, a creative documentary exploring the benefits and consequences of urban rejuvenation and in particular the right to housing of the urban poor. Developed by Uhuru Productions in conjunction with Eurodoc, an EU media project, the film captures the changing face of a city preparing to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup:

It's a tale of property developers vying for sections of the crumbling city with renewed excitement, of a city council determined to create a world-class city and ultimately of how this affects the hundreds of thousands of people who have made the city slums their home. There is money to be spent, even more to be made and conflicting interests are at stake. As whole areas around stadiums get a brush up and the middle classes, black and white, begin to move back in, beneath the scramble for property and space is a human story of survival". The film raises universal questions such as whether urban development has to mean gentrification, and whether it is possible to create a world-class city for all.

Uhuru Productions

The documentary aims to inform policy so that housing is seen as a right, and housing in the city as a real need, due to the high proportions of low wages that the urban poor – who live in outlying townships and informal settlements across South African cities – spend on transport costs.

Various trailers of the film can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ti7iDpBEIaw>, <http://www.uhuruproductions.co.za/documentary/feature-documentaries> or <http://www.nfvf.co.za/project/battle-johannesburg>)

