



BY THE PEOPLE OF YORK

CREATED FROM INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY

GREGORY DeCANDIA

TRANSCRIPTIONS BY

PATRICIA BRENNAN

THE PEOPLE OF YORK

GREG - MICRO 1

RAUL (SONNY)

SERGIO

PASTOR JIM

MAYOR MIKE

MILO

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CLIFTON

COMMISSIONER

ENDYRA

JON

LOU

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RACHEL

RITA

GREG - MICRO 6

JOSÈ

GREG

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER / OWNER-OPERATOR DIEMO PRODUCTIONS

Black t-shirt, khaki pants, purple ballcap, and pontificates
on history like an NPR podcast.

AGE: 35 (He/Him) WHITE

MICROCOSM: PART 1

Well, I don't think it's unique to York, but I feel like most people who are born and raised somewhere end up speaking the most critically of the area and/or wishing for something to be in their town that doesn't exist there as if the grass were greener on the other side. When in reality, there's a lot of really great things here that are under-appreciated or not known.

RAUL (SONNY)

WEST YORK AREA HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

Navy blue shirt, patriotic tie, and awkwardly charming.

AGE: 49 (He/Him) PERUVIAN-AMERICAN

DO NOT ENTER

Is York the first capital? The the historical argument is that this is where we wrote the Articles of Confederation, the first attempt at a uh national government, uh, if you will. But then they went to Philadelphia. So that's that that. The articles of confederation didn't work out that *(laughs)* didn't work out that great. If you guys wanna call it the first capital of the United States, go for it. Whatever brings more money into the city.

Now, I am a a high school social studies teacher at West York Area High School. I've been teaching for 25 years, and, uh-this is my 17th in the district. Yeah, um, so I first off I knew very little about York to begin with. I went to Millersville University. And, uh, couple years later I started dating a girl who lived here in York. I didn't hear like anything overtly negative, but, I'm hearing things overtly "oh you have to come here" and "this is a great place" and things like that. Um, I guess also in college I was exposed to Live and their wonderful uh/uh, was its song about York, um, Shit Towne, *(laughs)*

It's it's a city that it's definitely divided. Um, I know we look at cities like Lancaster and Harrisburg and how their urban development has gone. Uh the investment that um companies and entrepreneurs uh have taken to invite people back into uh the the city. Um, when I look at at York, there's a, there's a want there. It's like, it's a lot of a skepticism and a lot of, uh, uh, I'm tryin to think of a word that is-cynicism, a lot of cynicism towards, um, a lot of proposed solutions.

But at least the people who are thinking of those solutions— they they have a vision. You know. Does it always translate into success? Not always. That's just that's just, you know, takin a risk and tryin to get make life better for either them or for, uh, for people in general. I'd also like to try and change, uh, the very interesting juxtaposition of when you drive East, I'm sorry, West on Market Street, like you're coming um from like Lowe's or from a you see the sign, the sign that says Welcome to York. Right next to it it says Do Not Enter. *(laughs)*.

[SOUNDS OF TRAFFIC FILL THE SPACE. THE AFOREMENTIONED INTERSECTION IS REVEALED.THE TRAFFIC SOUNDS BLEND INTO "NEXT FALL" CREATED & COMPOSED BY SEGIO UNDERSCORES THE START OF THE FOLLOWING:]

SERGIO

COMPOSER / YORK ACADEMY SENIOR

White Hoodie, khaki pants, with a Violin & bow, and oozing creative charisma.

AGE: 18 (He/Him) BLACK

SPIN

I just recently started driving, um, well I've been driving for about six months now, cause I got my license in the summer. I kinda didn't recognize, like, I knew parts of York, and I knew how to get certain places, but I didn't know completely how to get there. Like when I started driving, I'm starting to realizing that York is like a crazy (laughs) like it's it's a crazy cool city, like you got like downtown with all it's like the lights and like the Christmas tree when they put up Christmas during the holidays. And the art, the, you know, the galleries, the shops and like also, like you can drive like five minutes down the street and be in like rolling green fields and like um goin out towards Still Meadow Lane and you could just like drive through like corn fields and like differen-things and I thought that was so cool to see about York. Like as I started driving and taking myself places it was like you could be in the city one second and then just be like in nature like the country in another second, but (laughing) with some, you know, recent political tensions, uh you gotta lot of like um rather vocal people about their political affiliations.

So, um, like, just people in general like you'll see signs like actually I was driving home the one night and I saw somebody who had like a truck and like obviously they've got like their flags and stuff and then they like painted something on the side of the truck that I can't say or else my Mom will get mad at me (laughing) but like you know those kinds of things just brash. I mean there's nothing wrong with that of course like I mean I'm vocal about some of the stuff I believe in but ah, just, ah the way that some parts of York express itself is a (speaking in a higher pitch) little, a little vulgar. It can be, like, there's a lot of negativity sometimes.

But I feel as though, (clears throat), a lot of that negativity kind of helps you grow. So even as we were going through like challenges and like milestones and different things that were happening in 2021, like, just around the world, I was tryin to think like man how can I spin this in a positive way, you know. I mean a lot of negative stuff happens and it's important to know the things that are happening in your world but, like, if you focus, too, too much on it then it can kind of weigh you down but if you kind of like see it for what it is and think like "Oh how can I spin this in a positive way?," it just makes your entire experience more like, it helps you about yourself is what I learned.

one way I do that is I started writing like my own music.

[THE SECOND MOVEMENT OF "NEXT FALL" CREATED & COMPOSED BY
SEGIO AND UNDERSCORES TO THE ENDING.]

PASTOR JIM

PASTOR / YORK CITY GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (GVI)

Bald, plaid shirt, yellow framed glasses, and calmly reassuring.

AGE: 61 (He/Him) WHITE

3-LEGGED STOOL

We live in a, particularly in America, in a culture that tends to commodify people. You know. You're a number at the workplace or whatever, you're only good for what you produce. Um and and people are so much more than that. What makes a community is-is, are the people that are part of it. Um, people you get to work with, the people you get to see and and do things with. You know, they have stories and, you know, just to hear what what is goin on not just the history of York, but the people in the community. So the GVI, Group Violence Intervention, a strategy that comes out of um John Jay College and David Kennedy in in New York. Uh, started back in uh uh mid-to-late 90s as Operation Cease Fire in Boston and it's a strategy that um recognizes that most of the violent crime in the city is caused by number 1 a very small percentage, usually less than 1/2 of 1 percent individuals. And those individuals are usually involved in groups um gangs are groups but not all groups are gangs. So it could be cliques and things like that. Um, and the idea of the strategy is to bring a message to those individuals that we want them safe, alive and free.

So, when when um Mayor Bracey brought the the old GVI concept in, um, there was a project manager there at the time and part of the the strategy is you you involve community. It's really a three-legged stool, right. So you have law enforcement, you have service providers and you have community. And you really need all of them to do that. So, on that community side, um, you reach out to the faith, faith-based community um as part of the whole thing and so I got involved with that really from the beginning...I'm a pastor also, um and we came to York to take the the Church in the southern part of the county in the Shrewsbury area. We talk a lot about being out in the community and reaching out to people, uh, but here is a population that desperately needs people to come and/and touch and, you know, come along side and try and uh work with and so it's just a natural connection in in that sense and because the focus of the whole program, the whole strategy is is not to just simply um arrest and incarcerate. It's the realization that you can't arrest your way out of the problem. It's a redemptive strategy. It's what can we do to help redeem you and what can we do to engage the community so we can use informal social control so that police never have to get called.

MAYOR MIKE

MAYOR OF YORK CITY PENNSYLVANIA

Gray suit, blue shirt, two phones, gray hair/beard,
and the voice of a 70's radio DJ.

AGE: 52 (He/Him) WHITE

SECOND CHANCES

I will always remember that York gave me a major second chance. I started as a protester in my 20s, protesting the conditions of the environment here in the City of York. I was 20 years old, I was hanging out with a drug dealer, lots of drugs, and I offered to give him a ride and I got caught. I ended up pleading guilty to two felonies.

I was um, I was off on a little bit of a quest to find my purpose in life and uh I was living on the Navaho reservation at the time and talked to some folks that were back here and they said we need you to come back and uh start the Codorus Creek Keepers 'cause they knew I'd been protesting about the uh the way that we'd been treating it with pollution and garbage and things like that. And uh I've kinda got um fixing in my genetics, so my name is Helfrich, it's helper, uh basically in German so I'm trying to help fix things and uh so I started out workin on the uh environment of York with the Codorus Creek.

So, I came back in with some assistance from folks, lots of folks — we got together at uh Martin Library and uh people came out. I was surprised how many people came out. I put a little thing in the newspaper that said "If you care about the Creek, come out". And I think the first time like maybe 25 or 30 folks came out. February 50 people came out and by March we had an organization called the Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership and uh we were going out just learning all about the waterways, walking up and down, picking up trash sometimes, sometimes just examining them. Finding sources of pollution and reporting them. We found trash from there from the 1800s, actually from the 1700s, we found an old spoon, an old pewter spoon, uh, from the 1800s, or 1700s, wagon wheels, remnants and Volkswagens and pieces, actually no, Honda Civic, all the pieces were there. They weren't all together anymore.

So, yeah, then while, you know, I kept goin to City Council meetings because I was doin environmental stuff and I kept getting reports, hey we're havin this cleanup, hey, we're havin this event, hey we have this problem, and but I also kinda stuck my nose into the other issues too while I was there, why not? You're there. And they asked for public comment so I had a comment (*laughs*). I have a comment. Uh but then when one of my friends and mentors, Jenna V. Ray, was retiring as President of the City

Council, her and a couple of the other council members asked me to run uh for City Council. So that's how I got involved in the politics side of this.

Uh. people of York City saw all the work I did, not not what happened when I was 20, but when I was 30, 32 and 35 and 40, you know. In that period of time, the people of York looked at that and said we're gonna give him a second chance and we're gonna let him be a City Council member and even though the powers that be tried to keep me out, uh, I ended up being the only Mayor in in Pennsylvania with felonies.

I wish that we would be more patient with each other and more caring about each other, uh, and more empathetic for each other's conditions. Sometimes I see people, like, yell about "the children." I'm like "don't you remember being a dumb little kid?"

I do. You know (laugh).

MILO

YORK HIGH SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

Short curly hair, white crop top, ripped jeans,
like a live action latin anime character.

AGE: 18 (He/They) LATINO

EVERYBODY IS SOMEONE

I had a really bad Junior year like to the point where I literally dropped out and came back this year. Um, my family had actually lost their home, so I was working um to try and you know just tryin to get things to eat, tryin to make sure everybody you know stayed good. Um, at the Galleria Mall so I wasn't makin too much money but, you know, a little chump change in your pocket never hurts.

So, I couldn't do the virtual classes 'cause I was working. I realized that virtual was not for me (*laughs*). I uh cannot focus online. I have to actually be in the building and it's awesome being back here you know, getting to see everybody again. And, I wanted to kinda show everyone that it doesn't matter if you are going through things and school isn't a main priority for you at the moment, you can always bring it back and that's exactly what I did.

It's hard. Um, but I definitely have to thank my friends. Like, they were there for me through all of that so, just to have that support system, that's honestly what kept me going. Um, it's it's really sad how whoo, sorry, I um (*sighs*), Freshman year I lost one of my closest friends (*cries*) to gun violence. Um, he was just a bystander. He was hangin out with his friends and someone drove past and, you know, had a gun, so um and now, even now, like right after prom, we were gonna have an afterparty to kinda bring the senior class together and it had to get cancelled because there were five shootings on that day alone. I. I think honestly it's it's the new generation and I don't put the blame fully on them. They have to learn it from somewhere you know but I feel like we're so desensitized. 'Cause our generation, we grew up every single year watching videos of the 9-11 terrorist attacks, you know, like it was nothing. Um, when the ISIS things happened, we saw beheadings on the news and we were like 11 years old. So, we don't, and I say the term we very loosely, but we don't see death as something that's that's really impactful anymore, you know, it's just another thing ah, someone died, well, on to the next thing, you know. And that's it should have never been like that in the first place, but I really think that they don't understand that these are people's lives. These are brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers, you know. Like, everybody is someone to someone, you know.

OPHELIA

ARTIST, LECTURER, DESIGNER, & MURALIST

Short hair, Green Sweatshirt, black pants

AGE: 60 (She/Her) BLACK

STILL (T)HERE

I came to York, I was recruited for a position. And, about 18 months. Um, they sold the company and moved a lot of the jobs overseas to India and then I was like that's not what I moved here for. So, part of the deal was that if either one of us weren't happy with the arrangement in less than two years they would make me whole and let me move me back to Chicago or do whatever. But I decided to stay here. I thought York was interesting and decided to stay here. I saw a great deal of potential. I saw a lot of people complaining about crime and issues and race and just so much and I thought this is small enough that you could actually fix this. You guys have no idea what crime and race and things like that are and in a small town like this where people yeah could actually reach out and touch each other you can fix this. And I thought that I wanted to be part of that. Um, getting people to talk to each other. Um, breaking down some of the barriers and a lot of the barriers are self-imposed.

I specialize in rhetoric and the power of the visual image. People ask me what's my subject matter very often. I will say it's the human condition. It's what people feel, what people do, how people live. Probably because my background is in communication. Um, it's in a lot of narratives and stories.

Um, to addressing some of the historical issues, the historical ills that are part of York that people had not addressed and a lot of those we saw in the Charlie Robertson trial (*mumbles*) Literally people weren't talking about something that happened thirty years ago and you can't move forward when you're not talking about those things. Yeah, so I can't, it's just like 2000 or early yeah, in later 2001 maybe when I think, if I recall correctly, one of the guys who's involved with the Lillie Belle Allen murder had committed suicide and he left this note behind that said "I was a part of that and so was Charlie Robertson" who was mayor at the time. A hero to people. And so they had to hold this trial for her murder and a lot of things came out and a lot of people who were you know kinda supposedly on both sides of this issue started having these conversations and it was actually a real jump off point for York to start healing. Because 30 years people were still angry at each other because this wasn't resolved. Um, I know that there's also the death of a police officer, Henry Schaad you know and people walk around like well that was yours, you got one of ours, we're even. But you can't heal and move forward with that kind of thinking.

So I came right about that time, laughing, yes, so as this is like starting to like pop off and explode my first thought was like "Oh my God, where am I" and then realizing first it felt like I was kind of back in time and then when this came up I thought "Oh, that's why." Because they're still there.

GREG

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER / OWNER-OPERATOR DIEMO PRODUCTIONS

MICROCOSM: PART 2

The funny thing about York County though is we're on the Mason Dixon Line so and when the Confederates came through into York and I'm not a historian by any means, but um, apparently upon occupation in the Civil War, transitioning from being a Union city to being a Confederate held city, there were accounts of lots of people pulling in their Union Jack and flying a Confederate flag and immediately just allowing a seamless transition of this town which sort of resonates to modern times, contemporary times. In that I think we we have a lot of flip flopping on issues or policies. There is we're very much a torn area. Um, there's not like a cohesive school of thought even though we're sort of we're not a large city, we're in between a bunch of large cities and it attracts like a fair mix of of traditional conservatism and liberalism all at the same time. Yet remaining somewhat of a small town.

RODD

FURNITURE BUSINESS OWNER/THEATRE ARTIST

Gray beard, glasses, black sweatshirt & jeans,
worn with an impeccable style

AGE: 60 (He/Him) WHITE

"I SEE FLAMES"

The race riots of '69. It's (whew) a white man explaining Ha Ha. Oh golly, um so I guess there was I mean I was only 8 mind you but but...

But as best as I can recall is that um Lillie Belle Allen's family was up from somewhere down in the South. And, uh, they wanted to go get something and they were heading up Newbury Street. And if you know Newbury Street at all, it has a little bit of an incline, the railroad track, and a second set I believe and then it goes up beside Faulkner Park and then goes down to Parkway Boulevard and turn and get onto Pennsylvania and go to the mall. Um, and they were heading that direction and there was a problem with their car right at the railroad tracks. And the Newbury Street Boys lived up on the incline part there, above the railroad tracks and apparently they had people watching and they signaled them and uh I think Lillie Belle's car stalled and she got out and when she did, they just pelted her pelted her and then I think she she um, she didn't die instantly, I think she crawled under the car or something like that. It was ridiculous, it was ridiculous. And um yeah. (sighs)

There was a um officer Schaad, I'm gonna say, I might have the name incorrect, was a white security guard that was going down I think around College, Newbury or Penn Street and um somebody shot at him and it pierced the armored car and killed him. And I I don't know which was in retaliation for which, um, you know you hear different things but you know then you had the uh National Guard called in. And and um I know as a kid, our church was in town and I remember going to Sunday church and we had a big long station wagon and the National Guard stopped us and turned us around and said you're now allowed to go to the City. We were already in the City for Pete's sake, you know but they made us turn around and then I remember one night uh there had been uh fires set, I think on Newbury Street, I'm not sure it was Penn or Newbury, um and seeing what to me in my mind's eye, I remember it and then relate it to *Gone With the Wind* when Sherman burned Atlanta. Because I remembered saying "I see flames" and it was shooting up above the houses and I just you know I mean that's an 8 year old kid remembering that kind of stuff. I'd love to forget it, that I don't want to learn the lessons from that. I just it just makes me wonder what adults were thinking at the time.

And that is my uncle was Charlie Robertson. He was the Mayor of York. He was also the first cop on the scene. He was also accused of giving the Newbury Street Boys the you know um and and the uh he raised his fist and said White Power or something like that at a rally in Farquhar Park I believe. Um, and he was singled out. Okay, I'm not defending him. I'm not also accusing him either because there's too much uh after all this time selective memory and also political. Absolutely political motivation uh for that being brought up after all these years. And those guys finally going to trial. It should have and could have been done. Uh probably 25 years ago if not sooner and it wasn't because there was no interest in finding justice for Lillie Belle and her family. But when my Uncle became Mayor and became popular with the residents of York City black and white and Hispanic alike, um, there was several council members that vehemently opposed him and fought with him and they got the DA to open up that case again and then they released information. So, he was acquitted but nonetheless they killed him because he was never again the same. He was absolutely ruined. Mentally gone. Physically decimated.

And uh so, I don't talk about that in public but um it was it was horrendous for him. It was shameful in a sense because people that feel he is guilty or responsible in some way, I say they have a right to because he was part of the police force that should have been protecting them. You know. So many people and not until George Floyd's death did I feel an impact from that time. You know, as an adult.

MARK

OWNER OF MARK & VAL WINES / KEY LEARNING CONSULTANTS

Black short sleeve t-shirt, black baseball cap, salt & pepper beard,
with strong pensive yet protective folded arms.

AGE: 62 (He/Him) BLACK

CULTURE

(laughing). My boss came over to me and said hey, HR wants to see you in the morning. Yeah, and I'm like "see me? For what?" He said, "I don't know. I'm just the messenger, go over there." Morning came, I went over, Carolyn Boyd was our HR director at the time. So she said "you're gonna volunteer to be one of our trainers." I said "okay...what's a trainer?" (laughing), you know 'cause my training's thinkin' like in the shop. And she's goin, "no, no, no, you're not gonna do that, we want you to be a train-I want you to be a diversity trainer." And I'm goin, what's diversity?

Because, prior to that, I'm talkin' back in 1990, that was like a buzzword, we didn't really hear it, you know what I mean? Nobody talked about diversity. What was that? And she said well, "we're gonna be makin' some major changes in this plant comin' up and we realize we need to get the workforce prepared for that. So, we wanna do some training, some introductions about different things to get people thinking. We ain't sayin we're tryin to change their minds. We just want them thinking about these issues."

We started off with 63 people that were gonna be trained. Mind you, at the time, we had 3,300 people at Harley. When they found out that they were gonna be talkin' to their co-workers about race prejudice, 60 of them dropped out within a day. So then the remaining 3 of us decided, okay, we're gonna hang in there, we're gonna do this, you know, People don't realize what cultural change is.

Culture is the major issue.

How we've done things.

How we've always been doing things and how some people just don't wanna, they don't wanna change that. Well, why, because they're in charge, they have a power position. They don't wanna, of course they don't wanna change. But we had that issue. I had those were my sections that I did diggin. I mean I went to Walter Litman who coined the phrase "Stereotypes". I mean I was studied, I was ready to go.

And, uh, it was disheartening at times, emotional at times.

Diversity is a very emotional thing. You've been taught a certain thing about people, places and other since you were a child and how could somebody you love tell you wrong? How could Daddy and Mommy and my preacher and my teacher tell me something that's not right? I gotta trust them. And there's a lot of emotion that gets into that when somebody comes back against that system no that's not the way it is. What do you mean? You know. Some will get angry. Some will withdraw. Some will just totally discount it. You know, don't want to hear it. Because they don't wanna admit that "I haven't been fair." "I haven't looked at this thing all the way." Um, "I've just gone along blindly thinkin' everything was fine"... to find out it's not.

VICTORIA

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER/ OWNER

Beige and white jacket, plaid scarf, black leather pants and brown boots,
a tapestry of fashion.

AGE: 52 (She/Her) KENYAN

CREATE A SPACE

Why York? York because I found love and I was married into this area (laugh), so I I it's a good reason to move, right? Part of it has to do with I am a fashion designer and um and as as you may well know, most creatives dabbled in a lot of things, but fashion design is my uh my first love. And so when I came here, I was able to find a little loft and I started doing um more work. I had a a retail store and people used to come and just really want to find out more about who I am and where I come from and the moment I mentioned Kenya, it just gravitated to okay, so we love your clothes, but tell us more about your music, about your food and things like that. When I opened up my retail space and the one thing that I wanted to do is there was a lot of open mic nights of poetry, and uh apparently some authorities didn't like the fact that I was doing that and they actually showed up. Uh, it was a fire chief, not the fire chief but his assistant or somebody, sent his people to come and tell me to shut down what I was doing because the space wasn't enough to allow, you know? They made it sound like I had a thousand people in the store and it was not the case.

Um, thankfully, the Mayor then, um, Mayor Kim Bracey, I I reached out to them, they, the chief was brought in, the Mayor came in, they came and visited the shop and you know, everything was straightened out and you know, it turned out that, you know, that was unacceptable. Shouldn't have happened to begin with. Uh, but the fact that they um took care of it quickly was something that I you know that reminds me of the kindness of the people here. So, um, that grew into a um a community free jazz night at the at the retail space I had. So every third Thursday of the month we used to have that uh free jazz night at the place and then people wanted to find out about food so I created something called um Gusa Dining Excursions and what we would do with that is uh focus on a country uh and then go to the Central Market uh open space kitchen and kind of demonstrate what we're doing with the food and how it was created and so introduce people to the history of the country, the music, the food and yeah all the good stuff about that. So that was my way of educating the community about different places that they probably would not be traveling to.

My oldest child is on the autism spectrum and his social skills are really something that he still struggles with and he will the rest of his life. But music was the way he spoke to us. So we decided, I decided, I wanted to be able to create a space for him to be able to grow and meet other people and so that's how the the jazz events happened. And then it grew from that into now the Gusa World Music Festival.

MRS. ILGENFRITZ

LOCAL MISSIONARY / RETIRED NURSE

Gray curly hair, black sweatshirt, white turtleneck, black pants, with a poetic faith.

AGE: 85 (She/Her) WHITE

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

We've had a lot of international students in our house. For exchange, we got very involved at York College and with the ministry of the international students and that's a story in itself how that happened. We had a missionary conference at our Church one time, (*clears throat*) and she was so interesting and I was thinking "oh that's what I always wanted to do." I wanted to be a missionary. So afterwards, I was in the lobby and I was, she came up to me, she "you like you're in deep thought". I said "Oh, I would love to be doin what you're doing." She said, "Well, you don't have to go overseas to be a missionary. You can be a missionary right where you are." And, that night I went home, I was layin in bed, I was thinkin' about it and I thought I'll get a table and I'll make a big sign saying "You're invited to Country Club Road, at 5:30 Friday night for a picnic. Welcome all international students."

So here these kids start coming. That night 35 kids came to our house. We lived walking distance to the college and they came to the picnic and that was the beginning that night one Japanese girl said "would you be my American family?" "Well, I mean, yeah, we would be happy to be your American family." And word of mouth, every year, well in the 40 years that we did that, we had people from 60 different countries live in our home.

Dr. Pfaltzgraff lived across the street and he had this huge Christmas display that he um built, he had Frosty the Snowman, he had a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, and these he was a dentist and all these little toys that were on this Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, his little patients brought him and so people came from all around. Well, we had he'd/he'd/he'd always put 'em out on Thanksgiving Day and take 'em down on New Year's Day. He lived across the street. Well here, one one New Year's Day, he had a heart attack and he couldn't put them out anymore. So, he asked us if we would like to put 'em in our yard and so that's what we did. It came across the street. So people came from all around to see these decorations.

So when we moved away from Country Club Road, 8 years ago, we gave our decorations to our grandson in Lebanon. Well, he had 'em for a year but it was too much for him, so they sat in his storage. So our daughters went to Lebanon and brought everything back and this year Frosty is back in the front yard at Country Club Road and um, a man by the name of Tim Miller must have saw it on Facebook.

He has one of the Ferris wheels in his yard. He lives on Orange Street and he has a huge display. We were there the other night to see it.

But, I was thinking, if you ever do something here about retro-York, anyone that grew up in York knows about those decorations 'cause Frosty I think is 70-some years old this year. And, I was thinking, if you ever have some kind of a we still have a lot of the the original things that were in our yard, that if you ever put on a play, you can actually use some of those things. Because they're well-known. I'm sure my daughter has them all in her shed. She brought them back from Lebanon. But, anyway, there's a lot. Our life is full.

CATALINA

OWNER/OPERATOR CUPCAKES and MORE

Dark, curly hair, glasses matching her electric blue and black dress,
all worn with a subdued defiance.

AGE: 45 (She/Her) LATINA

MY BUSINESS

We are in Central-Market-York, uh, and we are sitting next to my business. People are going to ask when they see this, they're going to ask, 'How is she-how is this possible that she's getting a business, as a government- I put in application and I have EIN numbered and they say you-can/you-can, run your business. So I run my business. With the-I put my money up front. So I have my business, my business is legal, I pay insurance for my business and everything, you know. It's something that people...I am, I am not the only one. In the US, all the US, there are many people like me. Annnnd, we don't like to talk about it, because some people get mad about...like how's it possible that these people do this. But, we are *not* bad people, we come here and we work, we work really hard. Um, we-jus, it's, it's our dream to have a house, to have a business, or to have something that...make your life...better. So is-is what I'm doing. You know? I work really hard, many years...cleaning floors, cleaning bat-rooms. (beat) I always working, working, working, work, so...Life, gave me a lot of work opportunities. I m a hard worker, ummm, and I had good experiences and had-bad experiences working, buuuut, I'm really happy that the people I used to work for, they always support me. They know my situation, and they give me the chance...tooooo...to work for them. And I never...do nothing wrong, and they-and-I and I know they appreciate what I did in that moment for them and also I never-gonna-forget-them, because thank-thanks to them I am still here-you know? I been, I've been living in York for 24 years, 20, no 23 years. And, um...I came here because I, was, kidnapped in my country. My mom rescued me, uhm, she lose a lot of money, there. Buuuut in some, points I wasn't safe there-anywhere. Sooooo...I was having all-dez-situations and, um, I tried to, in-dat-moment, I tried to come to the US, but... I/I/I wasn't able to, soooo-my Visa-was-denied...two times. And, um so I decide come to the US, with/my/for my husband-at-that-time, um, in the worse way that we can come.

So...I...crossed with BenJAMin the dessert...uh there's us-in-the-dessert-and -I. Safely I made it here. Uh, I know this does-no make me proud, but-I-think-it-was the best decision in that moment. I always have that hope, that, being here will make me feel...safe. And I also I can give my son in-that-moment, the best...life that I can. But-um...what I want to tell the people...thaaat, in-the-future, don't judge people like me, for being here in this country in the way that we come. I've-being-here, for-like-I-say, four years, I work really hard to get this business. Um, I, you-know, I pay my taxes, I have-I own a house, that I don't own money-to-anybody. I own a house, I pay the taxes for my house, I...pay my taxes for the school and, Everything what I-need-to-do I try-to-be...owe-the-rules-follow-da-rules here, so...if you really wanna judge somebody like me, you really need to go think-n-ask, because I want people to really think about this situation and in the future, somebody, *feels* like this and see all these small histories of York.

GREG

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER / OWNER-OPERATOR DIEMO PRODUCTIONS

MICROCOSM: PART 3

I wish York to have more pride in its town uh is that there's a lot of there's a lot of wonderful things to know about this place and a lot of really fascinating things that sort of shaped uh our Country as we know it. There's just a treasure trove of fascinating things that happened here that there's no pride or care to want to share, preserve or honor. William C. Goodrich was a a child of mixed race. It's not confirmed, but it's thought that a prominent senator in Carroll County fathered him uh with one of his slaves. Anyways, he he was granted his freedom at 16, ended up working in barber shops between here and Philadelphia and realized that a lot of the white privileged businessmen at that time would speak shop or talk secrets while getting their hair cut with one another. So he was able to learn business trade and practices through being charismatic, asking questions or just observing in the barber shops. Which like some of my favorite scenes in films are barber shops. They're just, they're fascinating places where um all walks of life, all walks of income come together with one common goal of look and feeling better. And um, usually it's a place where you can like loosen your tie, you know, and kind of take a minute. So, he learns business there.

He ends up becoming the wealthiest uh I guess wealthiest African American businessman in York by opening up somewhat of like an early Walmart. So, it was an emporium that had um some snake oil type products that you know were supposed to cure baldness and whatnot, but it was a newspaper, soap and home goods and other items that you could buy in in his shop and it is said that he had ten railcars I believe that he outfitted. He had a number of railcars that he had outfitted in order to have secret compartments within them to aid in the movement of slaves who had come across the Mason Dixon Line into Pennsylvania. Found refuge in his home which has a secret uh basement within it too today that you can tour and see. He would hide um prior slaves there, get them hidden in his railcars, send them to Philly and on up to New York in hope of a more seamless and uh completely invisible transition to I believe either New England or Canada. So he was an influential person in the underground railroad. There's a lot of documents that are written about a man in this town who had a nickname who quite literally could only have been William C. Goodrich due to the resources um that he would have access to. Uh, but I feel like there's a few missing gaps but everything points back to him as being an integral part of uh York's history and sort of our our abolitionist population here. Yeah, and I guess I I wish I had a better way of articulating the division.

BRITTANY

YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE & DOWNTOWN, INC
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dreadlocks, gray short-sleeved t-shirt, and infectious outgoing
AGE: 34 (She/Her) BLACK

A VILLAGE

I consider myself the grand connector of all things. So, everybody that you want to know in York, I probably know them. Um, so, I'm just you know, the person that um just is the bridge in the City so I'm really excited about havin a new position, so I've been here about 3 months and I'm just really excited about it.

Before that I was a school resource officer at the School District of the City of York and my school was York High. I worked as a resource officer for seven years, um, at York High and basically what I considered myself was a change agent. Um, so I wanted to really restore faith in law enforcement, restore faith in the youth and just our overall York Community so, I think while I was there, I was able to plant some seeds, um now it's somebody else's turn to come and harvest the seeds. Some seeds I was fortunate enough to be able to plant, harvest and uh see the benefits. I think sometimes kids are havin trouble with like um social, emotional skills. They're havin trouble with um when you're lookin at urban youth, um in this particular demographic, homelessness, absenteeism as far as parents are concerned. Um, just um lacking of basic necessities. Um, so in in areas where you see there is a um overabundance of poverty, um, you'll see higher crime rates because you see that people have to do other things in order to supplement those particular incomes or they may do things out of their despair that they may not have done had they had the necessary resources or necessities in the first place. I say uh it's very simple, see a need meet a need. You know, if you know a kid is hungry, make the **choice** right there. Come on, let's go, let's sit down and have a conversation. Come eat with me or do whatever. Um, from Dream Proms to Prom dress giveaways, to, um, families homes burning down and me literally taking pots and pans and food out of my own house and takin it over there, you know.

Um, I think sometimes we get so wrapped up in what our job is we forget the humanity of who we are, who we're supposed to be when we talk about a village. So I think if we could just consider ourselves a village member, um versus oh I'm a cop or oh, I'm the Director of Community Engagement or oh, I'm a teacher or oh, I'm this or oh I'm that, and just look at yourself as a person assisting another person that needs help in this season, I think we'll go a lot further and a lot of those gaps will be bridged if you just look at yourself like a person and look at them in the same way.

BOB

PHILANTHROPIST/ FOUNDER GIVE LOCAL YORK

Gray hair, glasses, gray shirt with a black suit jacket, cochlear implants,
and a dashing debonair demeanor
AGE: 83 (He/Him) WHITE

THE NEXT RESPONDER

Uh, I had the misfortune of being deaf so I have Cochlear implants and I didn't become deaf until much later in life near the end of my career and I was profoundly deaf rather promptly at the end around the end of the career. Uh you know and uh uh I'm a talker. I like to talk, I sorta don't shut up (laughing). So, uh then you do withdraw and you start to not talk. And uh, so those kinds of things happened a lot. My daughter is a professional classical musician and uh when I would go to the symphony, which was very frequent, uh, she-I couldn't really hear her playing. You know, just the blend and I couldn't separate the noise as one being a flute, you know, one being a clarinet or what have you. I just knew it was music. And uh, so going to that first symphony and hearing the flute and knowing that's my daughter, that was a really good rewarding uh comeback to normal life - Uh you know, a part of normal life.

Uh, but the thing that I have done is probably the best thing I've done in my life, was to be the founder of Give Local York. And Give Local York is a community-wide one day of giving and uh we just succeeded incredibly. Right from the get go. So, once a year we do it. Uh we plan and uh raise money all year to support the actual event and it's become a very large event. It's the first Friday uh uh of every month, I'm sorry, it's the first Friday of May but there is a first Friday every month in the community, which is a really big draw for people betting together.

And, uh, so we I think now currently we have raised in in uh our first year was over a million dollars. That was surprising to us that we could be that successful. Next year was a million five; next year was almost three million; next year was four million, you know, so we, um, uh had about three hundred and so, 310-320 non-profit participants in the event last year. And it's not only the money, it's camaraderie; it's the way they get to know each other; it's how hard they work together. 'Cause I uh, that's something that I enjoy doing and I'm kinda dedicated to passionately to to non-profit community. And uh to me uh they're so important as a core of our community and a core uh social service sector.

You know, if you think about um the 9-11, and the first responders, how we all admire them and that brought them way into the forefront that we always had admiration but what they did there was so incredibly dangerous and gallant and selfless, uh uh

unselfish and running into save people and many of the running to their death and the doctors, the nurses, the the um EMTs the Police, the Firemen these people um we admire what they do. We need what they do but they're there just for that tragedy then they're gone. So the next responder, who I call the non-profit community, is the next responder. And that next responder is there for the rest of your life. Uh to handle the victims' needs. And you don't have to be a victim to be victimized. You know, you could be a family member, you could be a spouse, you could be a um /you/you/you could be a neighbor, you could be a fellow employee, but it's all our world, social world, so they're there for us for social comfort.

LUZ

OWNER/OPERATOR ARTISTRY de LUZ

Dark, curly hair, dark jacket with a plaid top, funky frames,
with a catchy can-do attitude.

AGE: 30 (She/Her) LATINA

FACE PAINTING

Oh, what keeps me busy most days. Um, art (*laughs*), really art-um-but also motherhood. Motherhood probably actually comes before art. Um, well, I am a domestic violence survivor or what do you call survivor, and I was just trying to um find a way out and it actually art was something that helped me to you know come out of that dark place in my life and um it actually, it saved me and my family.

So, have an 18-year-old, I have a 13-year-old and an 8-year-old. They are...um, even though they are so me, they are also very individual. So um, keeping up with their individual needs, um, and you know just tryin to keep them all on on the right path, tryin to keep them outta trouble, and things like that. That can be uh that can be challenging (*laughs*) at times.

Um, so like I sold t-shirts at a very early age. I sold chocolate bars. I sold Avon, that one was a pretty long. So I've always had like a sales. So I was like how can I keep this going? Face painting isn't goin to keep me alive all year long. So, do I keep picking up part times or you know things like temp jobs OR do I self-teach myself more stuff. As a business originally I started off with body paint. So, face painting, um, which is a water-based paint. Um, is what I use, specifically, is safe for the skin, um and I was exploring with that first but I had already had a like a real gift in drawing. So I started off with that. And then I moved on to 'cause of the art brain, moved on to so many other things. So now, um, I offer paint parties (*laughs*), um, because I I started exploring with paint. I would call my style, uh, more like expressionist or like pop art or some would call it modern art, not in the not photo realism. I use a lot of color. Um, I also feel like I challenge the eyes, you know, and it's very exciting.

DELIA

PARLIAMENT ARTS ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mauve zippered top, black pants, lots of tattoos, a walking tribute to the 90's

AGE: 31 (Pro/Noun) MAYAYSIA-AMERICAN

A CREATIVE MIND

So I am the Executive Director of the Parliament Arts Organization so I'm there most days and I am also an IT consultant for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Human Services. And then there's a creative side of it, um, where I have 70 plus tattoos on my body and I like art and I like music and experiencing it. I cannot draw. I cannot sing. I cannot dance, uh but I can appreciate it and I have a creative mind so I found a way to balance the two really well and um, so, I really like working with people that need to recognize what their business worth is and how to execute on that and make an efficient process.

So, um, my Mom came here, she was placed in York, York, Pennsylvania um as a refugee and her family uh lived in York City. Um, yes, yes, so my Mom came here from a refugee camp from Malaysia, so um, she was in the refugee camp with her family and I don't know all of the particulars of her story, mostly because it's not really something that she cares to share often. Um, but when we were younger, she would tell us about her time in the refugee camp, um, going to school in kind of like a shared pavilion, um having to eat whatever canned foods you got at that time and being creative. Um, she talks about pea pancakes, which I would never try, but it's canned peas you mash them up, you put it with flour or whatever starch you have and you turn it into a pancake. Um, I believe when we were younger, she had us try it once. It was disgusting and it was very green. So I would not suggest it, but in a pinch, in a refugee camp, I'm sure it was very nutritious and full of protein.

My parents met here, I have a house here, I have roots here, I have family here. Um, and there's a need, there's a need for people who have a brain like mine. And there's nothing exceptional about my brain. Um, but it should be here. It should be used here.

GREG

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER / OWNER-OPERATOR DIEMO PRODUCTIONS

MICROCOSM: PART 4

Knowing York is to know depth, passion, craftsmanship, division, the complications of many systems coming together. York is in a sense a microcosm of humanity at large and there's lots of unique examples here of that. There's a rich history of indigenous people and what Pennsylvania used to be. First-hand accounts of native Lenape um, for example, harvesting like paw paw fruits, the the tropical like fruit that is uh native to here.

The accounts of the river and the skies being so full of fish and birds that sometimes the sun would be blocked out and it would be hard to see the water. Um, whether or not these are hyperbole from previous generations or if there really was that abundance of wildlife, the fact that a squirrel could move from Maine to Florida without touching the ground because of all growth forests, just paints a different picture of what the Susquehanna Valley was at one time.

CLIFTON

SCULPTOR

Black Cowboy hat, beard, glasses, and looks/speaks like worn leather

AGE: 70ish (He/Him) WHITE

NEST

The Artist Homesteading Program was a program where they were were helping an artist, move him into the city, anywhere in the city you could have a a studio space, um, gallery space in a house or/or/or any other sort of building. The city was going to help you get get the zoning, get it set up and they were giving you, I think it was I can't remember if it was 5 or 10 thousand dollars towards the down payment on the place. Um, that never came to pass. Um, I put in/in/in a proposal for that. I guess I came in a little too late and they ran out of money. And I don't feel bad about what I did, it's just that there was a certain frustration with the city not following through, which was, it's um it's uh. One of the things I find this city is uh the, uh, (pause), I feel like it's stratified into different groups and they don't really relate to each other.

Um, I was very much thinking that we should try to make a change in that and we started a thing called Creek Fire, um, which was a um like a music um, wasn't just music, we had all sorts of entertainment, um, in Foundry Park. We got money from the uh county um to fund it for several years and then they decided that you know, we should be getting money from the uh, the uh businesses in town. And everybody always promised us money but never showed up.

I do get frustrated with the fact that people don't recognize what we have here. Um, I tend to walk into town in the morning and when I cross the creek, um, I have had a bald eagle fly about 10 feet overhead. Uh, he was being chased by an osprey, um and uh there's almost always a kingfisher up and down the creek and you hear that, it's like a little dinosaur flying along the creek. People don't seem to pay any attention to that, which kind of drives me crazy. Um, uh, Farquhar Park is an Audubon site and people don't realize what a gem that is. It is a listed on the Audubon as a as a nesting site for um, the um, Night Heron, which are very hard birds to see nesting. They're very elusive. But the ones here are not. Um, it's a beautiful bird with a bright red eye. It's the color on it is fantastic. They have this crazy one feather that sticks out the top of their head (laughing). They're really pretty. And then the Great Egret, um the big white bird that when they're in the blooming, uh uh breeding season they have uh um absolutely beautiful uh uh feathery tail. It's like the local birdwatchers know about it and people from outside but York does not appreciate the the the fact that we have these small parks, we have the creek we have nature right through the middle of town and uh um, it's a little frustrating that they don't recognize that. You just have to open your eyes and look for it.

COMMISSIONER

CITY OF YORK POLICE

*Black shirt with badge on waist, sunglasses on a shaved head, beard,
a smile and personality as bright as the sun.*

AGE: 47 (He/Him) BLACK

OPPORTUNITY

I actually started right there (*points*). I literally started at the barber shop at the corner and I was there fresh out of high school cutting hair for like 8 years. Right up here at, uh, College and Queen, College and Queen Street. Up in Leon's Barber Shop and I was there for almost a decade and from then, you know, it's like anybody else's story, I got married and had kids. So I knew I needed to get a real job 'cause I needed like health insurance and stuff and I just was always drawn to service so I left the barber shop and I immediately started working in The Children's Home. I had teenagers on a George Street Program, loved it. Uh, moved on from there and went to the prison for a while. Realized that that was not my thing 'cause as a local person, seeing people incarcerated and knowing them from in the world and seein them when they're not quite at their best and stuff, uh I I I did, I excelled there but it was just not my niche. and uh, I went on from there to get a job with the school district first go round and I was kind of an everything guy. I was young and I was willin to try anything so I was a attendance officer, a teacher's aide, a home school liaison, anything the principal needed to do, I was willin to try, just to get my foot in the door and um, it was at that point worked out, really realized man, I love working with youth. Like this is my thing. Like I really enjoy working with young people 'cause I feel like that's an investment that you can see.

So, um, it was there working with kids and stuff, I realized that was my niche, but I also understood that I felt like there was more I could be doin for my community so that's what initially got me into police work. After all the years of watchin my Dad and talkin to my Dad and seein like a lot of how the the old guys did the job that I knew growin up as a kid, I always took it and understood that it was, bein a police officer was just a platform. It's what it allowed you to do. It's the conversations that allowed you to have, it was the rooms that it got you into. It was kind of a great equalizer job. It allowed somebody like me to have conversations with doctors from WellSpan and and people like Louie Appell and college professors and stuff and have them literally want to hear what you had to say and and be okay with it and take your advice and allowed you to get things done that otherwise, as a as the average citizen here in York, maybe because of circumstance, maybe because of my skin color whatever it might have been, my status in life, that uh conversations that I wasn't allowed to quite have, but as soon as I put a badge on and a uniform on, it was like okay.

So, for me, that's what it always represented and then it allowed me to have the opportunity to serve the people that I grew up with and the people that I felt responsible to. Um, it allowed me to help them, help serve them in a better way.

(Person yells from street) I did not, I did not text or pay him to drop by and say that. But yeah, I was able to watch people like Britney Brooks and hire Britney Brooks. I was able to discover talents like Angie Morales and Quinn Johnson who now has a department. And I just was just goin along tryin to do my thing and create opportunities for people and do some good stuff along the way and try to be uh a light or be some somebody in the community that kids look to.

(Another shout from street) Man I had him as a kid, this is crazy. *(To the direction of the shout)* I'M DOIN ALRIGHT, HOW ABOUT YOU? *(A response)* APPRECIATE YOU! So, Just tryin to , just tryin to show kids that you can be from York and that's the biggest thing. Like there's been a lot of successful people from York. My brother's a very successful person. There's a lot of successful people that have gone on to do great things from York. But the people that stayed here and stayed here and been able to do it, make it and then be seen as a resource, be seen as an option to young people. And that was one of the reasons why I wanted to stay here and I was just goin along like peckin along, doin my thing and I got the call. I got the call from uh got the call from Mayor Helfrich and it was like "hey are you ready to step to the big show." And I'm like, "okay."

Um and when he called, I thought about it, prayed on it, talked to my family. It was like I HAVE to. I have to because I owe it to this community. I owe it to myself. I owe it to God to try and for me the thing that was most attractive about this position, it and nothin to do with salary, had nothin to do with the title. For me it was the next level of platform that it offered. The next level of conversations I could get into and um the things that it was gonna allow me to be able to do here in York that I otherwise couldn't even be on the level that I was at. So I jumped on the chance, I jumped on the chance *(A third person yells from street)*. HOW YOU DOIN? So I jumped a the chance and I've been, uh, ridin this thing like tomorrow could be my last day. I'm just like trying to have as much fun and do as many things as I could possibly do along the way.

ENDYRA

RUTTER'S COOK / FREELANCE ARTIST

Black top, pleather pants, long lashes & nails,
with hand gestures like interpretive dance.

AGE: 19 (He/Them) BLACK

CONNECTION

I work at Rutter's. Uh I worked in the kitchen it's/it's/it's cool, you can, it feels very corporate, it feels very organized and you can sort of like smell it in the air. It's palpable you know like we're all individual people but we're all under this one very tight, closed, and thick umbrella (*laughs*).

Um, I do I wish I could have like the artistic freedoms that I would want from you know just like working for myself or just selling art, How am I feeling, how am I doing, how do I perceive myself, how do I want to be perceived, um and how do I want my art to represent me no matter what type of art it is. You know, it's it's artful and it's skilled because you have to think of every word that comes out of your mouth in order to build a connection in such a short amount of time.

And I think that's why I wanna work for myself, get out in the world. Like corporate doesn't hurt me that much. Because I still get to connect with people you know outside of my coworkers. Um, like I see different people every day and being able to you know stretch my repertoire of the type of people that I can converse with is really nice. And it feels like an artistic outlet. I'm just so infatuated and in love with it 'cause it's it's the basis of our humanity, how we interact with others. It it will absolutely change everything if you choose to change one little thing about how you interact with others and I feel like there's a general consensus among a lot of people in York that you know we sort of like quietly move passed each other but there's an acknowledgement. There's acknowledgement. There's a code here. There's a long-standing history.

Um, you know, it may not be you know the York history you know Colonial, but you know there are people who, there are people who grew up on Duke Street who are still sittin on Duke Street. Like to have a simple look at someone and just and just know that we connect on some MICROSCOPIC level, There is something between us and and and we feel it.

And I think that I very consciously project everything that I want to/to, for the other person, to perceive. I project everything that I need for the other person to perceive about me before I even open my mouth. I want it to zoom from my body and just HIT because I want your perception of me to be completely concrete by the time I open my mouth (*laughing*). 'Cause well everything here (*points to head*) is well thought out and planned, everything that comes out of here (*points to mouth*) is not.

JON

OWNER OF THE PADDOCK ON MARKET

Black sweatshirt, long silver hair & matching goatee,
with hands as big as his humble bravado
AGE: 52 (He/Him) GRECIAN-AMERICAN

KEEP IT LOCAL

I took over uh the family business which is the Paddock on Market. It's was established in 1947 so I am the third generation. The last of the Mohicans on its 75th year anniversary. Every day involves something a little bit different. Especially in this modern day where we are with uh post pandemic or endemic or I won't define what status we are. But with logistics and outages and food prices and so forth, it has created ah an interesting way of being a small business. Uh, we've actually had to change, I've had to change the way we do business than we ever have. So, it's/it's um extremely challenging but I've never backed down from a challenge.

Um, in a previous career, I worked at the State and in the State I was involved in planning and preparedness uh for critical infrastructure and key resources at Homeland Securities. I took lessons that you know, we executed and learned and some of the standard operating procedures and took those best practices and did them for ourselves.

The community's been so involved that they've um when they they supported us when we were closed to the point where when we had the shutdown that we only did curbside. Um, so they ensured that we people that were regular customers,... uh, going-maybe they're cooking at home, they transferred that cooking at home to eat out to ensure that our staff uh was still had jobs and still maintained us because a lot of times businesses such as our own which are in the hospitality/tavern/tavern tavern business, they work on cash flow and when you shut down for two months, the spigot stops but the bills do not.

The community saw that, saw that we've always maintained that if you know simply put, the money's made in York, it should be paid in York. They came and made sure that we had business when we were closed, I mean closed being to indoor dining. After that, they ensured us that they they came outside when we ended up putting picnic tables, we bought all the picnic tables Lowes had at the time and set them up outside in the front parking lot and there they were. Uh, the Township made sure that we had licensure and permits over a weekend.

So/so/so I can't I can't say enough of the unity and the support that was just there at every level whether it was government or whether it was strictly or just our community. You know, people. (pause)

LOU

COVID RECOVERY BUSINESS CONSULTANT / JCC BOARD MEMBER Gray pants, light brown top, and clipboard and pen at the ready making his incessant need to use his hands while speaking a challenge.

AGE: 62 (He/Him) JEWISH

SERVE & PROTECT

We had a block party. I moved in to next to [Nick] and we had a block party and he walks over and introduces me to I don't remember the guy's name, John Smith, and he said "John, I want you to meet Lou, Lou's family's been here for well over 100 years and John just moved into the community and you know he's relatively new. Why don't you make him feel comfortable, Lou."

Nick walks away and um John looks at me and now even before I could say anything he says "Let me ask you a question." And I said "Sure, what's that?" He said "I have been here for 12 years, when do I stop being introduced as the guy who just moved into York?" And I said to him "At year 25, that's when you start becoming, we might say okay, you're a Yorker."

And that's that's the old style school of York, Pennsylvania. A very small community, very tight-knit community, um, you know very conservative community, very Pennsylvania Dutch you know type of thing. But I always, that's the story I used for the opening remarks and I had everybody in the room, they were all laughing at that 'cause it's true.

Many, many many years ago, and Tom Chapman, that's a name you'll hear, uh, he was the first black Police Captain, uh Chief of Police, excuse me. They changed King Street. King Street used to run westbound. Um, when they changed it in whatever, in mid-early 70s something like that, my Uncle Sam, who, we do, we always do things the same way. We don't like change here in York, okay and that's that's notorious. Um, King Street used to go West so he would come down from East York, he would get on King Street, he would head West. Well, somebody decided they wanted to make it East. Well, Sam didn't like that. So, he still went West. So I remember being in the office when the call would come the guys would say "Hey, Herb (my father), Tom Jackman's - again, we weren't formal back I think back then - and Tom's on the phone and, you hear my father goin "Ah, I don't know what to do. I don't know what, he's gonna go the wrong way." So, rather than, so rather than, you know yell at Sam, my Uncle Sam, 'cause Sam was not gonna change, there's just no way you're gonna get him to change, Tom Jackman used to set a police car over on King Street and Hill Street and every morning 6:45 and then the police car would get in front and Sam would follow him down King Street. The opposite way.

So, you know, we weren't gonna get the man to change but I thought, I thought how cool is that that that how cool is that that I just took the the because Sam was nobody, I mean, he was not, he was a wonderful person but he was very low key. Um, and that's what they did. So that's how I view York. I think that we get a bad rap. We don't like change but we'll find a way to make it happen so that somebody else is not uncomfortable.

MARCELLA

RETIRED ADULT PROBATION OFFICER
YORK COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER

Pink shirt, beige vest, pink hat, and a truck driver's confidence.
AGE: 66 (She/Her) NATIVE AMERICAN

HURT

My family is one of the oldest living families from York City. We have over 200 years of history in this town. So, the history goes back pretty far.

I tell people that you can do anything you want to do in life if you set your mind to it. We came from projects, you know,

My one brother worked with Special Services in the Air Force and he became a teacher, teachin' nuclear components. Um, my brother, he just passed away in um December, he was a Pennsylvania State Trooper for 25 years. they did a story on him, He was an artist, an entrepreneur, uh he was uh well, he worked for the State Police Commissioner after he retired. He had a televideo production company that he actually wrote over 70,000 songs. eventually he was into movie productions and he he just devoted all his time to his work.

You can do anything you wanna do if you put your mind to it. I published a cookbook; it's called Spirits in the Kitchen. I'm faithful to this market. I used to go to Central Market downtown. I I'm like the Market promoter because I'm from here so I I tasted food from every stand in here and I encourage people to be diversified. People from all walks of life have stands in here and I think it's enjoyable to try their foods, you know. They put a lot of hard work into what they do. (beat)

Um, I think that the laws need to be stricter on certain situations. And my father he always told us to be strict and that's what we need today, we need more strict discipline of our children. This is a whole new generation where rules don't apply, so. 13 years. I worked with children since 1984 to 2015, basically. I was in juvenile probation then I went to adult probation.

Uh the guns are out of control and these are babies, you know, killin' babies, you know, and they don't understand when they do what they do, that crime is always gonna exist. people don't understand a lot of children have hurt inside. And I don't think they have a better up-coming-bringing that I mighta had you know when I was comin up back in the 50s but discipline starts with yourself also, so I mean you can go anywhere, do anything you want but you have to have respect for people as well as respect yourself. I hope things get better in the city. I live here and I wanna see people grow.

GREG

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER / OWNER-OPERATOR DIEMO PRODUCTIONS

MICROCOSM: PART 5

So, it's small enough that you can know everyone. It's large enough that uh you know industry can take foot and take hold and be successful. With within a 4-hour drive there's 65 million people living around us. So, but we're we've, I, I don't think we've ever fully transitioned from being that Mason Dixon line mentality of of somewhat southern thinking but also progressive and historically we have you know slave hunters roaming around here tryin to find people in in the mid-1800s tryin to find these slaves that were disappearing and hidden railcar components and from William C. Goodrich to abolitionists who would say "yeah, sure, I just saw the slave, slave hunter, they were going East" when they really had just witnessed them going West or might be aiding them along the river on foot. Um, so we've always had a torn, like a there's always been a lack of cohesion

[SHE IS ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE LEPRECHAUN HEAD]

RACHEL

YORK CATHOLIC SENIOR / SCHOOL MASCOT PUPPETEER

School Uniform: dark sweatshirt with School logo, plaid skirt,
with a subtle sweet snark.

AGE: 17 (Pro/Noun) AFRO-LATINA

THE FIGHTING IRISH

It's a Leprechaun. Yeah, yeah, it's like a full-on suit. It's not the most attractive mascot (*laughing*). It's not intimidating at all. Like York Tech, I think they're the Trojans, they're like "oh, I'm a warrior". I'm like a leprechaun, and I'm like small, and we're supposed to be like the fighting Irish but the it's like terrifying. Like I've walked up to like kids at football games and they like kinda like step back and I'm like. It's actually kind of terrifying. We named him "Ed" after Sheeran, that was that's his temporary name.

Um, I kinda thought it would be funny if we could change it every year to like, I thought that would be like a cool students could vote on it or something, but I don't know if that will happen but for now, he's just Ed, so yeah.

Like I know I like go to Catholic school and stuff and I'm very lucky to have the privilege to go to a private school but it doesn't mean I have to agree with it. Like, especially like the LGBTQ+ community. I thought that was just like, especially when gay marriage was legalized. That was like a huge one. even as a kid I was like "Why isn't that good?" Because they're not hurting anybody, there's nothing, I don't see anything wrong with that. I mean, you know, and a lot of other things like I think that a lot of the Catholicism in Church especially there's a lot of picking and choosing what is and isn't like good and like "oh you go to hell if this happens and you're fine if this happens." And, especially with like things that are going on in the world, I couldn't wrap my head around that like somebody who created who's all loving and all good could create all of this or create all of this destruction and like genocide and just everything bad. You know what I mean.

Especially in like history, like slavery, the holocaust, like all of that. Like I don't understand how that could happen but like "oh, He's there". You know what I mean, so. That was a huge one for me. That like revelation. I'm not gonna lie, there was an incident two weeks ago in the boys' bathroom someone engraved the "N" word, like, hard "R" in the stall. Like it's not, it's not old. This is like still going on and especially at a school where it's like majority is white, there's, I'm probably, and I'm mixed, not saying that that makes me less black or anything but I'm pretty sure there's only three black girls in my class and I have over like 90 students, which is still small but like that's a very small like portion. Like some people, like, the big thing, like, when I was

in high school, like 9th grade especially, was like "N-word" passes which obviously does not exist. And, um. N-word passes, like people give their friends the pass to say the "N-word". Like it was just that that was a thing and that was just very crazy. And they just they had a problem about that in Junior high a lot of the Junior high boys, who are white, were saying it like it was no big deal. "cause they don't know the impact of the word and like I was in I was in cultural studies, which is kind of like the debating class and we were in discussion about like the "N" word and I was just like in awe that people were just "Oh, it's just a word and this and this and this" and I was like I was just sitting there like "are you kidding me? This is crazy."

It's like small things like that and like we have a diversity club, which I'm part of, um, we just re-branded it, it used to be called "Humanitarian Society" because the school is kind of against it being called "Diversity Club" and the excuse was "Oh, well" It's not we don't have a big minority like oriented school I guess and I was like "Okay, well let's just..." I don't know I just thought that it was crazy but we brought it back to Diversity Club, which is really cool. Um, I think we have around 20-30 participants.

RITA

CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF YORK COUNTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Speckled gray pixie cut, maroon tank top, jeans,
and may bounce out of her seat at any moment.
AGE: 33 (Pro/Noun) WHITE

FREE RICKI

Do you know about Ricki the Bear? So there was a bear, there's a ice cream shop, Jim Mack's, right? And it had a petting zoo as a part of it right they had like goats, whatever, you could feed the goats and all of that. There was a black bear that lived there in a cage. The size of this room, right? Um, for I don't know 20 years okay and there was finally a few years ago a petition to get Ricki the Bear, "Free Ricki the Bear," right? And everyone of course had a lot of opinions on that. Literally Ricky Gervais even posted about Ricki the Bear. Huge media attention and the number one argument from people in York was that bear's been there his whole life just leave him alone. Just leave him there, he's always been there.

And that was infuriating but that is the mentality often and so I just wanna shake it up. I don't want to live in that world where we're not allowed to question or carve new paths because of the way that it's always been and I just so that is really I think the one thing that I work to change. I don't wanna be afraid to address that.

I'm very lucky to work, I surround myself with people who feel that way also and are looking to blaze a new path and make significant change here. It's a small enough town that you know if you want to get it really involved, you can get really involved.

Um, you can meet people, you can go out and you can make that kind of change. It's very easy for me to do that. To engage in that way with people and get really involved. I do think there's something magical about this town that allows you that kind of access um into some other world (laugh).

And so it's just I (laughs) learn something new every day about people and um yeah. So, and on the other side of that too I think we at the Cultural Alliance really are this like middle community connector. We we are kind of the middle ground. Um, we have access to and good relationships with individual artists, with organizations and community leaders. And then we also have really good relationships with our funders and a lot of our um philanthropists that live in here, we are so lucky. York is just this really crazy place with these really incredible philanthropists who are out and about. They're not anonymous faces, right. They are very involved.

GREG

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER / OWNER-OPERATOR DIEMO PRODUCTIONS

MICROCOSM: PART 6

I guess a sense of uneasiness between the people and how they want to represent where they're from or how they want to describe what's good and bad here. And yet it's everywhere. Maybe everywhere has a sort of a stark division in its populous on what's good and bad about where they're from. But you can hear people speak very very kindly of York and in the same sentence criticize it intensely as they close out their point, uh, that I don't think I've ever come across elsewhere and I find that to be fascinating. So if you knew York, *(long pause)*, knowing York is to know humanity in a way.

JOSE

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT YMCA OF THE ROSES
YMCA polo, black pants, wedding ring on left finger, 2 rings on right hand (one on middle finger and one on ring finger), and is as cool as he is calculated.
AGE: 55 (He/Him) LATINO

LITTLE YORK

No matter where you travel in the world Lancaster County is known. York is 25-26 miles away and people recognize Lancaster. I don't care where you're at in Europe. I been, I been a lot of places in Europe and everywhere you go I tell them I'm from York Pennsylvania and they say "Pennsylvania? Lancaster, Pennsylvania?" "Nooo, I'm from York, Pennsylvania." Or they'll say "New York" I say no 'Little York" (*chuckling*) so yeah, that's kinda funny. That's everywhere you go though in the world I think people just they recognize Lancaster because of the Amish and all the tourism stuff they've heard of for many, many years and the outlets are big. People from Europe talk about the outlets 'cause they've been there.

Um, a lot of times, we make national news but it's never anything good um it's always something bad um. And that's unfortunate because there are a lot of good things going on in York and they just don't get publicized the same way. Um a prime example, the school district, you know, people talk bad about the school district there are some great things going on in the school district um and the school district the teachers are not just teachers. I mean they're playing baby sitters, parents, counselors, you name it, um getting kids Social Services case managers, they're doin it all. Some of the programs they got going on are *great*. believe it or not the truancy system in the school district really does try to do a great job of protecting the kids and ensuring they come to school and things like that. Um so there's a lot of great things. I mean, you see the revitalizing downtown. Some of the neighborhoods, you know, the streets are bein' fixed, the sidewalks are bein' fixed, lighting projects all over the City, things like that to make neighborhoods safe.

So, there's a lot of great things goin' on but you don't hear about it in the news. Um, people don't talk about it and I think that needs to happen. I think people that are doin' video and media and things like that need to be out in the community lookin' at what's goin on - grassroots - grassroots level. You know, instead of serving in the community, we be out there grassroots level lookin at what's goin on, how people are livin' to make some changes if there are things that need to be changed. Especially the County to the City cause we're no different.

(*Gestures with hand - chest out*) The things that happen in the City happen in the County too they're just not as publicized. Um, cause York City and York County are the same thing, people just separate them like there's a line between them. Like Lancaster and York, it's almost like they draw a line between it.

And uh, I think it's unfair cause there's a lot of good things goin on in York City and/ and York County, I think if they blended together it might make things much better.

"If you knew York" you'd you'd wanna be here, you'd wanna be part of the change, you'd wanna be part of the great things that are goin on here, you wanna be part of redeveloping the, the, the thought process behind York, what York is, what it needs ah ah and bein part of a way to get rid of all the negativity and bring the positivity forward. Uh, that's where I'm at. I always wanna be positive about York. I love York and I have no shame in goin anywhere in the world tellin somebody I'm from "Little York", Pennsylvania 'cause it's a great place to be, a great place to live. And I see some changes goin on, I see some great things goin on but it needs to be as a community as a whole, not just neighborhoods and blocks, it needs to be the whole community - all of York.