

30th Anniversary print screening at 3:10pm on April 29, 2017 at Digital Gym Cinema!

Los Sures

In the late 70s and early 80s, Los Sures was one of the poorest neighborhoods in New York City. In fact, it had been called the worst ghetto in America. Diego Echeverria's 1984 film skillfully represents the challenges of its time: drugs, gang violence, crime, abandoned real estate, racial tension, single-parent homes, and inadequate local resources. The complex portrait also celebrates the vitality of this largely Puerto Rican and Dominican community, showing the strength of their culture, their creativity, and their determination to overcome a desperate situation. Beautifully restored just in time for the 30th anniversary of the premiere at the New York Festival, this documentary is a priceless piece of New York City history.



"Trenchant and eye-opening." – *The Hollywood Reporter*

"An authenticity that has been captured by no fiction film I've ever seen." – *L.A. Weekly*

"Both an invaluable record of pre-gentrification Brooklyn and an ode to a community's resilience." – *BAMcinématek*

Caution: This film features strong language.

Director: Diego Echeverria

Official Website: <http://lossur.es/>

SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

TERMS TO KNOW

- **Gentrification:** Process of renovation of deteriorated urban neighborhoods by means of the influx of more affluent residents; a common and controversial topic in urban planning.
- **Williamsburg, Brooklyn:** The first wave of Puerto Rican immigrants to Brooklyn came in the 1920s. The community called the area "Los Sures," corresponding to the street names and location in Southside Williamsburg. By the second wave, dating from the end of World War II to 1998, Southside Williamsburg was a cultural hub and home for many Puerto Rican immigrants. Since the late 1990s, Williamsburg has undergone gentrification characterized by "hipster" culture, a contemporary art scene, and vibrant nightlife.

TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- Are the neighborhoods where you live, work, and shop similar or different to the one in the film? How are they similar or different?
- How did the film affect your understanding of gentrification?
- What are some of the traits of the community of Los Sures?
- Which persons in the film did you identify with or whose story particularly affected you?

MAKE CONNECTIONS | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BOOKS

The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn: Gentrification and the Search for Authenticity in Postwar New York

By Suleiman Osman

Challenging conventional wisdom that New York City's renaissance started in the 1990s, Osman locates the origins of gentrification in Brooklyn in the cultural upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s.

Gentrification began as a grassroots movement led by young and idealistic white college graduates searching for "authenticity" and life outside the burgeoning suburbs. But as "brownstoners" migrated into poorer areas, race and class tensions emerged, and by the 1980s, newspapers parodied yuppies and anti-gentrification activists marched through increasingly expensive neighborhoods.

FILMS

Gut Renovation

Charts the destruction of Williamsburg - a neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY - after the city passed a re-zoning plan in 2005 which allowed developers to build luxury condos where there were once thriving industries, working-class families, and artists. The filmmaker lived in the neighborhood for 20 years and was one of the many who were forced out by the changes that occurred.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS | ORGANIZATIONS

<http://www.cityheightscdc.org/> One of goals of the **City Heights Development Corporation** is increasing the quality and availability of affordable housing for low-income residents.

<http://www.midcitycan.org/> Comprised of residents of the Mid-City neighborhood who care about making a lasting impact, **Mid-City CAN** gathers around top issues residents care about and forms teams of volunteers to accomplish the following goals: food justice, peace promotion, access to healthcare, and improvements in transportation.

<http://www.speakcityheights.org/> **Speak City Heights** is a media collaborative aimed at amplifying the voices of residents in one of San Diego's most diverse neighborhoods, City Heights. Through reporting and multimedia projects from our partners — KPBS, voiceofsandiego.org, The AjA Project and Media Arts Center San Diego — the collaborative will help residents and policymakers frame a discussion about what constitutes a healthy community, its barriers and how they'll overcome them in City Heights.

<http://sdtenantsunited.org/> A grass roots bilingual organization, **SD Tenants United** is dedicated to affordable housing, code enforcement, and investment without displacement.

<http://theboulevard.org/> Formed in 1988, **The Boulevard Business Improvement Association** is one of the seventeen business improvement districts of San Diego, which includes the communities of University Heights, North Park, Normal Heights, Kensington, Talmadge and City Heights. The organization regards socio-economic progress as one of its primary goals and holds special events as a way of bringing people together.

<http://mediaartscenter.org/>

Created out of the expansion of the San Diego Latino Film Festival, which originated in 1993, and incorporated in 1999, **Media Arts Center San Diego** has grown into an organization that promotes access to media arts as tools for community self-expression and social change. MACSD supports this mission by conducting Youth Media workshops. Working closely with local school districts, libraries, and parents, MACSD provides project-based learning opportunities for youth to learn pre-production, production, and post-production, utilizing professional equipment and software, as well as the skills and knowledge of professional media artists.

Contact larry@mediaartscenter.org or kania@mediaartscenter.org to learn more.

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