



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Award-winning *For Flint* Makes Hometown Debut  
Subjects, Filmmakers Host Screening and Q & A at the FIA**

Flint, MI – *For Flint*, the award-winning short documentary that examines the resiliency and hope of a city in the midst of a federal emergency, makes its Vehicle City debut with a free screening on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at the Flint Institute of Arts. Director Brian Schulz and producer Matthew C. Mills, as well as subjects Valorie Horton and Leon El-Alamin, will be on hand for a post-screening Q & A followed by a reception in the FIA lobby. The film debuted earlier this year at the prestigious Tribeca Film Festival and has played festivals worldwide, including the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival in Melbourne, Australia and Bay City, Michigan's Hell's Half Mile Film Festival. The screening, post-film discussion, and reception are free and open to the public.

**ABOUT FOR FLINT**

Take a walk down Flint's main thoroughfare and Saginaw Street resembles a city in transition. Ask any of the 102,000 residents, whose number has been rapidly declining since big auto's exodus, and Michigan's seventh largest city feels anything but lucky.

Stagnant economy. Dizzying crime rate. And a water crisis that has captivated a nation.

To say that Flint has been hit with a bad blow would be an understatement. The city has taken it on the chin, and is now primed for its second act. The city's resiliency is emblematic of the can-do spirit of its residents.

Look no further than Valerie Horton, who parlayed a 33-year General Motors career into a second calling as a potter and arts surrogate by introducing her Chosen Few Arts Council to Flint's arts-deprived youth. There's found objects artist Ryan Gregory and his awesomely bizarre contraptions that are byproducts of a 20-something's limitless imagination coupled with Flint's raw and overlooked resources. And, after growing up on Flint's rough north side and nine years of incarceration, Leon El-Alamin is poised for redemption by empowering Flint's at-risk youth.

While Flint has been shaken by a federal state of emergency fueled by the unimaginable, these individuals are charting a new course flowing with a hope and optimism that might just make all the difference. And as for luck, well, we should all be willing to bet on Flint.

**ABOUT DIRECTOR BRIAN SCHULZ**

Brian Schulz is a national Emmy Award-winning producer and cinematographer. He previously served as a DP on Amazon's University of Michigan football docuseries and Showtime's "A Season with Notre Dame Football." His 2012 film *Brooklyn Castle* [producer + DP] was a South by Southwest Audience Award winner, nominated for a national Emmy, and has since been optioned by Scott Rudin/Sony Pictures for theatrical remake.

In his sixteen years at Major League Baseball Productions, he created co-branding content for Gatorade, Scotts, Pepsi, and MasterCard. The *Sports Business Journal* honored him with a "Forty Under 40" award in 2014. In addition to moderating several SxSW panels, Schulz has

served as a guest speaker at Harvard University and the U.S. Embassy in Kiev. Since 2001, he has been a weekend youth volunteer at the Lower East Side's Grand Street Settlement, as well as co-chair of its annual Taste of the Lower East Side fundraiser.

**Director Brian Schulz, producer Matthew C. Mills, and *For Flint* subjects Valorie Horton and Leon El-Alamin are available for interviews on Tuesday, December 12. All interested media, please call Chene Koppitz at 810.237.7387.**

#### **ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs. The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Fri 12p–5p.; Sat 10a–5p. and Sun 1p–5p. Admission to the FIA is free to members and children under 12; Adults are \$7; Senior Citizens and Students with I.D. are \$5. Saturdays are free thanks to Huntington Bank. For more information, please call 810.234.1695 or visit [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org).