FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Premiere of Three New Films on Struggles for Environment, Justice and Community in East Palo Alto

Breakthrough Communities co-founders Carl Anthony and Paloma Pavel, PhD, to speak at event

**East Palo Alto, CA - March 7, 2013**

On Monday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm East Palo Alto youth, community organizations, and Stanford University’s Program on Urban Studies will premier *Homegrown: Cultivating Dreams through Action* – three unique hip hop documentary films highlighting powerful stories from East Palo Alto. This free, community event will take place in East Palo Alto City Hall, 2145 University Ave.

The films merge hip hop music video and historical documentary approaches and are a product of a unique ten week collaboration between Stanford Urban Studies students and East Palo Alto youth lyricists. Coming together as part of a class about EPA environmental issues, the teams of Stanford students and youth lyricists partnered to edit films and create sound tracks that tell three important stories in a fresh new way:

- The Youth United for Community Action’s (YUCA) campaign to close the Romic hazardous wastes recycling in an effort lasting nearly a decade and leading to state action to close the plant forever
- Peoples’ irrepressible desire to farm the land in East Palo Alto, and cross race, culture and time in the effort to grow their own local food - from a time when African American community activists farmed the “Back 40” to today’s efforts by Collective Roots.
- The Weeks Neighborhood Plan and East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society’s vision to use the plentiful land to build self-sufficiency and community through a locally-based food system.

Carl Anthony and Paloma Pavel, PhD of Breakthrough Communities will speak after the films to catalyze a discussion on the issues raised.

Mr. Anthony was President of Earth Island Institute, founder of Urban Habitat and co-founder of *Race, Poverty and the Environment Journal*. He served at the Ford Foundation where he directed the Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Initiative. His forthcoming book, *The Earth, the City and the Hidden Narrative of Race*, will examine the connections environmental justice, community development and the changing face of global urbanization.

Dr. Paloma is President of Earth House Center and editor of *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis* (MIT Press, 2009). At MIT Press, she co-eds the Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Books series with Robert Gottlieb. She is a Visiting Faculty at UC Davis where she works with the Center for Regional Change. Dr. Paloma is also the co-author (with Anne Herbert) of *Random Kindness & Senseless Acts of Beauty*.

The films themselves are a product of a partnership between Stanford University's Program on Urban Studies, East Palo Alto Youth Action Team Youth United for Community Action, Collective Roots, Mural Music & Arts Project, Live in Peace, Urban Ecology, and Rebooting History

In addition to the film screenings, this event will feature free food, live music, and a unique glimpse into the beauty and power of the East Palo Alto community.
Support for this project is provided by partner organizations above, as well as Stanford University affiliates including Haas Center for Public Service, Institute for Diversity in the Arts, John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, Program on Urban Studies, School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford Arts Initiative, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, and Academic Computing Services.

For more information on the event contact:

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