

NO FIXED ADDRESS

THE AMERICAN DREAM



No Fixed Addresses is a 60-90 second vertical documentary inspired by **It Starts Outside**, exploring how people rebuild their American Dream in unexpected places when life moves them outside the life they once knew. Because sometimes the dream doesn't disappear. It simply changes address.



TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

01

THE IDEA

When the American Dream changes address.

02

AMERICA OUTSIDE

A different portrait of life beyond four walls.

03

TRANSFORMATION

Outside becomes where rebuilding begins.

04

CONNECTION

Without an address, people still find belonging.

05

HUMAN TRUTH

Home is more than where we live.

06

THE NEXT ADDRESS

What if outside is where the next chapter starts?



THE AMERICAN DREAM CHANGED ADDRESS.

When life pushes us outside the traditional American Dream, we do what humanity has always done: find another way forward.

For one person, outside is a trail. For another, it is a parking lot after midnight, a converted school bus, or the first morning after a layoff, divorce, rent increase or life-changing setback.

In America, 22.7 million renter households are cost-burdened, with 12.1 million spending more than half their income on housing. The line between housed and unhoused can be thinner than we imagine. **Outside** can be where we go to escape life. But sometimes, outside is where we are forced to begin again.



OUTSIDE : THE REALITY

771,480 AMERICANS EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS IN ONE NIGHT



OUTSIDE IS WHERE WE BEGIN AGAIN

I want to capture the small decisions that reveal resilience: where someone parks, how they create privacy, find power, build community and make an unfamiliar place feel safe.

These are not stories about abandoning the American Dream. They are stories about adapting when the dream does not go according to plan.

Transformation becomes visible not in what was lost, but in what someone chooses to build next, how they adapt to what remains, and the courage it takes to imagine a future that looks different from the one they originally planned.



THAT IS THE HUMAN STORY I WANT TO CAPTURE.

Because sometimes the most important step forward happens after life has pushed us outside. Not because outside magically fixes what happened, but because it changes our perspective. Without familiar walls, routines or expectations, we are forced to see ourselves differently. We improvise. We connect. We discover strengths we did not know we needed.

That is the transformation at the heart of No Fixed Addresses. Outside is not the tragedy in this story. It is the catalyst. It is the place where one version of the American Dream may end, but another has room to begin.

And perhaps that is the simplest power of going outside: we may step outside because life changed, only to discover that outside can change us, too.

MY NOTES:

It Starts Outside

HUMAN TRUTH
HOME IS MORE THAN WHERE WE LIVE.

HE'S HOMELESS AND RUNNING FOR MAYOR.

HERE'S WHY

DERRICK SOO, 61

LIVES IN A TARP-AND-WOOD-BEAM
STRUCTURE ON 77TH AVENUE IN
OAKLAND.

HE HAS BEEN LIVING ON
THE STREET SINCE MARCH.

HUMAN STORIES: HE LOST HIS ADDRESS. NOT HIS VOICE.

Derrick Soo once lived a version of the American Dream. He worked, owned property and had a home. Then came illness, financial losses, family tragedy and eventually homelessness. He found himself living outside in Oakland, only miles from the family home where he had once lived.

But outside did not end his story. It changed his relationship to it. Soo helped organize a homeless community, advocated for food, sanitation, medical services and safer living conditions, and eventually pursued an audacious idea: running for mayor of Oakland. That is the kind of transformation No Fixed Addresses wants to capture. Not homelessness presented as spectacle. Not poverty packaged as inspiration. A human being responding to disruption by finding purpose, connection and another way forward.

WHAT IF GOING OUTSIDE ISN'T THE END OF THE AMERICAN DREAM?

What if, for some people, outside is where they discover what they are capable of becoming?

Derrick is just one story. Across America, people without fixed addresses are still running businesses, creating social media content, working jobs, pursuing ideas and evolving into versions of themselves they may never have discovered otherwise. I know this because I have lived it, too. No Fixed Addresses is not simply about what people lose when life moves them outside. It is about what they discover, create and become once they get there.



CHECKLIST

Month: **Week:**

[illegible]

DON'T BUILD THE STORY. GET THE CAMERA TO DO IT.

OCTOBER | DISCOVER

Research • Participants • Pre-interviews • Locations • Routes • Safety • Story development

NOVEMBER | GO OUTSIDE

Travel • Documentary production • Cars • Buses • RVs • Communities • Work • Meals • Technology • Human connection

DECEMBER | SHAPE THE STORY

Editing • Sound • Music • Color • Captions • Finishing • Delivery

\$5,000 Travel, lodging, fuel & transportation

\$3,000 Camera, lighting & audio

\$3,000 Production support

\$3,500 Editing, color, sound & music

\$2,000 Participant honoraria

\$1,500 Vehicle rigs, power & safety

\$2,000 Insurance, releases, storage & contingency

\$20,000 TOTAL

