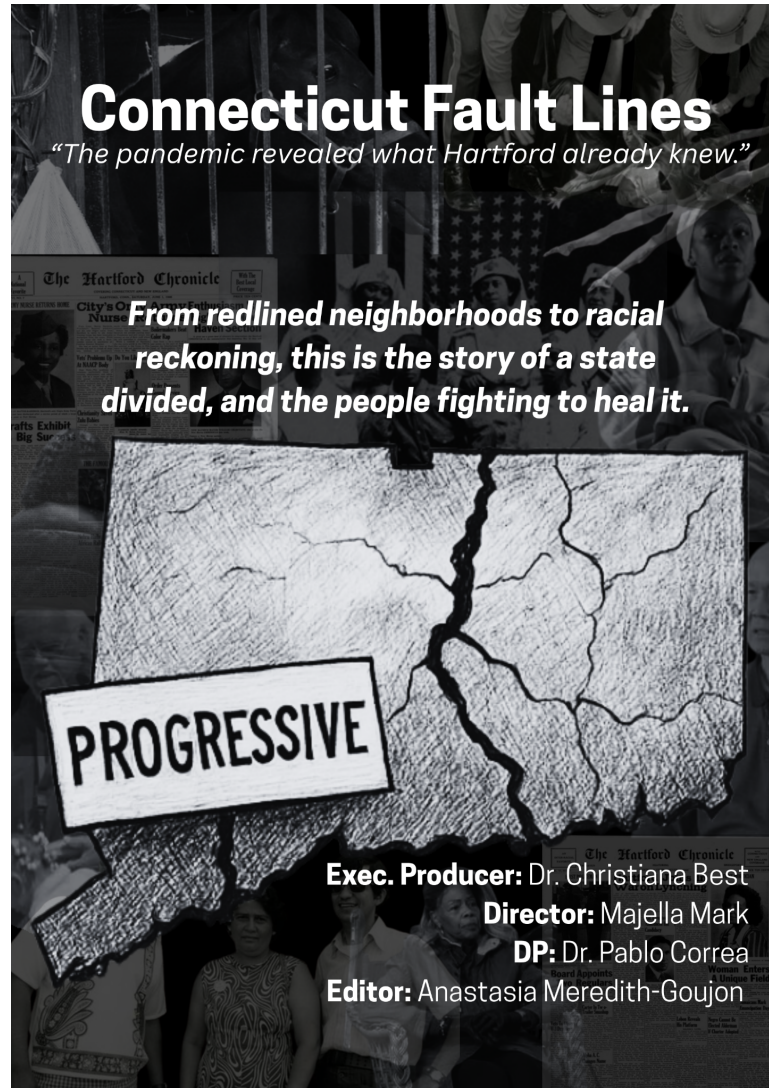


CONNECTICUT'S FAULT LINES: SCREENING ONE-SHEET (2026)

TAGLINE: "The pandemic revealed what Hartford already knew."

POSTER:



FILM CREW:

- Director and Producer: **Majella Mark**
- Executive Producer: **Dr. Christiana Best**
- DP: **Pablo Correa**
- Editor: **Anastasia Meredith-Goujon**

LOGLINE: While Connecticut presents itself as a progressive blue state, its political reality, shaped by town-by-town disparities and systemic racism, paints a different picture. As COVID-19 ravaged communities and justice movements ignited, this documentary peels back the layers, guided by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1959 speech at the University of Hartford—an unfinished call to integration and equity.

SYNOPSIS: *Connecticut's Fault Lines* is a hybrid political and social documentary that challenges the myth of Connecticut as a uniformly progressive blue state, revealing instead a landscape shaped by town-by-town disparities, segregation, and systemic racism. Directed and produced by **Majella Mark** with Executive Producer **Dr. Christiana Best**, DP **Pablo Correa**, and Editor **Anastasia Meredith-Goujon**, the film is anchored by the haunting moral clarity of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1959 "The Future of Integration" speech** at the University of Hartford, an unfinished call to unity that still echoes today. Moving between archival history and present-day testimony, the documentary follows Hartford's North End and surrounding communities as COVID-19 collides with racial injustice, exposing the realities of **homelessness, food insecurity, political division, hate crimes, broken school systems, vaccine mistrust, and the mental health toll of survival**. Through intimate stories from elders, youth, educators, nurses, clergy, organizers, and migrants from, the West Indies, and beyond, *Connecticut's Fault Lines* becomes both a reckoning and a roadmap, asking what repair looks like when a state's image fractures, and the people most impacted refuse to be forgotten.

Director (Majella Mark): I made *Connecticut's Fault Lines* because I was tired of hearing Connecticut described as a "progressive blue state" without anyone asking *who* that progress has actually reached. From the outside, Connecticut can look **unified, educated, liberal, safe**. But when you move through Hartford, when you listen closely to the people holding this state together, you feel the truth: the political map is not the lived experience. This **film was born out of the pandemic years, when COVID-19 didn't just expose a public health crisis**, it revealed the deep, historic inequities that have always shaped who gets protected, who gets believed, and who gets left behind. As a director, I wanted to create a documentary that didn't sensationalize pain, but honored testimony, raw, intimate, and unfiltered, especially from Hartford's North End and from communities shaped by migration from the **American South, the West Indies, parts of Asia, and refugee journeys**.

At the center of the film is the voice of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, drawn from his 1959 speech at the University of Hartford, *The Future of Integration*. I chose to anchor the documentary at that moment because it reminds us that the struggle for equity is not new, and that the "future" King spoke about is still **unfinished**. His words act like a moral compass throughout the film, guiding us through stories of **housing discrimination, school inequity, food insecurity, political division, anti-Blackness, anti-Asian violence**, and the quiet violence

of being ignored by systems that claim to serve everyone. The people in this documentary, **elders, youth, educators, nurses, clergy, organizers, are not symbols**. They are the living archive of what happens when a state's values are tested in real time. *Connecticut's Fault Lines* is my attempt to hold up a mirror without flinching, and to ask a harder question than "Is Connecticut liberal or not?", but what does justice look like here, and what will it cost to build it?

EP (Dr. Best): As Executive Producer of *Connecticut's Fault Lines*, I supported this film because it tells a necessary truth about Connecticut—one that is often hidden behind the language of progress. Connecticut is frequently described as a "blue state," but that label can mask the deep disparities that exist from town to town and neighborhood to neighborhood, especially in Hartford. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those inequities became impossible to ignore. The communities already carrying the weight of systemic racism, housing insecurity, under-resourced schools, and unequal access to healthcare were the same communities hit hardest by illness, loss, and economic instability. This documentary captures that reality with honesty and care, centering the voices of people whose lived experiences are too often dismissed, misunderstood, or left out of public conversations.

What makes this film especially powerful is its anchoring in **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's 1959 speech at the University of Hartford, *The Future of Integration***. His words remind us that integration and equity are not inevitable outcomes of time—they require sustained effort, accountability, and courage. As an educator and community advocate, I believe storytelling is one of the most important tools we have for transformation. *Connecticut's Fault Lines* is not only a documentary—it is a public record, a community testimony, and an invitation to action. My hope is that this film sparks dialogue across generations, strengthens community-based solutions, and pushes institutions to confront the truth: if we want a more united Connecticut, we must first be willing to see the fractures clearly—and commit to repairing them together.

STILLS:













THEMES:

- COVID-19 & public health inequity
 - Systemic racism & segregation in the “blue state” narrative
 - Migration, identity, and belonging
 - Housing discrimination & education disparities
 - Food insecurity, mental health, and community resilience
 - Civic accountability, healing, and intergenerational change
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WHY THIS FILM / WHY NOW:

Connecticut is often seen as a model of progress, but the lived reality in many communities tells a more complicated story. *Connecticut's Fault Lines* offers a rare, urgent look at how race, politics, and survival collide during crisis, and how communities respond with courage, truth-telling, and collective care.

IDEAL AUDIENCES / COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Universities & high schools (social justice, public health, history, media studies)
- Community organizations & cultural institutions
- Health systems, company culture leaders, and public policy groups

- Faith communities & civic coalitions
 - Film festivals and documentary series programmers
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SCREENING FORMAT:

Screening + 30 Minute Q&A

Panel topics:

- “COVID-19 as a revealer: health equity & structural racism”
 - “Hartford’s migration story and the fight for belonging”
 - “Education, housing, and the future of integration”
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CONTACT / BOOK A SCREENING:

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