

# WOOD, WATER & SALT DOCUMENTARY FILM SYNOPSIS

updated 20feb24

The overall theme of the documentary is “I can do it, too!” The purpose of MARE, generally, and the documentary film, specifically, is to show marginalized populations, especially Black and Brown youth, that folks who looked like them achieved remarkable accomplishments throughout history despite enormous challenges and obstacles. And, emphasizing, for the benefit of the target viewing audience (black and brown youth), that young people who look like them and come from similar socioeconomic backgrounds are contemporaneously exploring the world and living outside-the-box that many disadvantaged youth find themselves. Finally, the empowerment package (film, curriculum, and operations plan) provide stakeholders and institutions the blueprint for replicating the MARE experience including the critically important media production and distribution process.

## EPISODES

Other than the first episode, the remaining episodes are subject to being chronologically reorganized

### **Episode 1: *I can and I will!***

Interweaving the fears and challenges that youth face in their daily lives while highlighting their participation in engaging various MARE activities.

### **Episode 2: *Fear of Water***

Showing the progression of youth who aren't comfortable in deeper or moving water as they become proficient boaters and basic water safety. Incorporating the inflammatory story of the combustible Cuyahoga River and its role in the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Episode 3: *Poetry in Motion***

Showing youth bonding with and caring for horses – the ability to guide and control something larger and physically more powerful than you.

### **Episode 4: *Dangerous Fruits***

Displaying the challenges of food apartheid in urban centers, self-sufficiency and the legacy of environmental pollution in communities of color. Youth engage in soil/air/water testing while growing and raising their own foodstuffs through raised beds, chicken coops, and aquaponic farming.

### **Episode 5: *We fought for this!***

Sharing the heroic stories of soldiers of color throughout the history of America while paralleling the deforestation of America. Youth plant trees to honor Black, Brown, and women soldiers while explaining the importance of increasing the urban tree canopy.

### **Episode 6: Booker's Sunday Hammer**

While youth learn carpentry and metal working during the wagon and boat-building experiences, showing the importance of the trades (and Booker T. Washington's philosophy) and reframing the importance of the skilled trades not only to America, but it's unique place in the African American experience.

### **Episode 7: John Malvern – America's Renaissance Man**

Sharing the amazing entrepreneurial exploits of John Malvern, as the youth participate in the entrepreneurial experiences of MARE.

### **Episode 8: Mary Fields - Big, Bold, and Black**

Highlighting the incredible story and pathway of Stage Coach Mary Fields and that black woman don't have to look like Beyonce (and other modern day beauty "standards") to succeed and be respected.

### **Episode 9: ...a page turner.**

Telling the stories of black literary creators and the history of black literacy (including the risks of blacks reading during slavery) as the youth produce the MARE comic book.

### **Episode 10: Behind the Scenes!**

The BTS experiences of the youth and film crew while filming *Wood, Water & Salt*.

### **Episode 11: Beyond the block**

Addressing the reality and challenges of many urban youth having limited personal experience with traveling, not only regionally or nationally, but even outside their own neighborhood.

### **Episode 12: Lions, Tigers, and Bears**

Demonstrating the healing benefits of outdoor experiences and how nature ties into the everyday mechanical STEM systems which undergird modern technology.

### **Episode 13: The Show Must Go On!**

Wrapping up the series with emotional and inspiring highlights (and the transformations of the youth and adults) during the various MARE experiences.