

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Ronnie Downs: My name is Ronnie Downs, but I go by Ronnie. And the address here is 218 West Saratoga Street. Well, I'm the building maintenance guy. I'm like the manager of the building. And I've been here since '92. One year they gave me a T-shirt, had the mayor of 200 block of West Saratoga Street, so everyone call me the mayor.

Speaker 2:

Everyone calls you the mayor of 200 block of Saratoga Street?

Ronnie Downs:

Exactly.

Speaker 3:

Ronnie is... I know him about 10 years, this block. He's very nice guy, very helpful guy.

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Ronnie Downs:

They think I'm very special and they trust me. They can leave the store and go to the temple, and pray, and leave me in the store to wash over the store.

Baoart:

Like I say, I call, "Hey, Mr. Ronnie." He said, "What do you need, [Baoart 00:00:47]? Anything, you need help? Helpful. This very greatest man. I like him very much.

Ronnie Downs:

We just one big happy block.