

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



Speaker 1 ([00:01](#)):

Hello everyone. I'm Irvin Williams. We're standing on the legendary and most notorious and very well respected Edmondson Avenue and Pulaski Street, 2100 block. And this rhyme is something I'm going to do off the top of my head so I'm going to see if I can get this.

This is something they really don't have to ask me. Although we standing on Edmondson Avenue and Pulaski, in front of the legendary breakfast spot, where a lot of people lost their life here because they were shot. Where this neighborhood was number one in the city for being hot. But everything we had, everything we lost everything we got, everything we ever dreamed of, everything we ever love.

Hate it. Dreams we're chasing, started right here on Edmondson and Payson. The days where we had the carry ons, when we had the [inaudible 00:00:58] with shrimp fried rice. For the days where the Pakistani people run us from the front of their store, because we had large crowds from shooting dice. The police knew who we were, we was ghetto superstars in our own rights. Never thought about the

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lonely days or the heartfelt nights. Where we left broken hearts from mothers whose sons never came back home. From the days of chasing the dollar so these city streets we roll. But 29 years later, I look back on it all. I regret a lot, but I also can say I had a ball.

So I say to you, black, white, Hispanic, Latino, whatever you call yourself, praise God every day and you don't need no man's wealth. God bless you all, have a good day.