

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



James Carter:

(silence).

I've been doing this for quite a while. I started doing this when I was about 17. Unprofessionally. And living in an urban setting, right? Which afforded me all the... Give me every opportunity to make all the wrong decisions, so to speak, right? So I did a small stint, and I was incarcerated in which I learned how to do this professionally.

My name is James Carter. We are here. We are basically in the heart of Wynwood, Miami, we're on Mount 33rd next to the old Manufacturer, in fact, this may be part of the old Boulevard Movie Theater. And I recall as a younger age coming up to these movies and watching Bruce Lee films and stuff of that nature. We're in the heart of the business area here on Mount 33rd.

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I don't regret the choices I made, man, because it mold me into who I am today. I was able to purchase little trimmers from the commissary, and with the comb and a razor, and once a person saw that... I had a couple of friends, they let me use them as guinea pigs, so to speak. And once other people saw, because sometimes it was hard getting into the barbershop, and you got your visits coming up and stuff of that nature. So it was a hustle and I enjoyed doing it. So I just went out when I got released, I just did my best to try to keep it going.

I did three years, three times. Since then, man I've grown up some. I'm more involved with my kids life, more involved with my grandkids life. And I'm just glad that I was one of the few people that was given a second chance because a lot of my friends they didn't make it. If God was walking in this room right now, I will had this. I would say thank you. But for now let me go.