

## 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](#)):

Hi, I'm Wilmer. I started here at the restaurant in March. My uncle helped me get this job. I work the grill and serve food to customers. I've learned how to cook a lot of things. How to prepare steak, chicken, and especially how to prepare Salvadorian food. Back in my country, I didn't have the slightest idea how to make this food.

Speaker 2 ([00:29](#)):

This country, the US, is rich with opportunities. Obviously, that's why we're here. What I don't like though, is that America's made itself rich through war. That I don't like, but hey, that's the system. That's

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how the country continues to be prosperous. It's a country that's always at war or fueling conflicts in other areas.

Speaker 1 ([00:56](#)):

To come from my country and see this country that's so well-developed. I come from a third world country, everything is different here. The weather, even just the way that daylight looks is so different compared to El Salvador. When you come here, the first day is like showing up in a different dimension. It takes time to adapt. Truly amazing.

It's been interesting to come here after hearing so much about this country, the country of dreams, where you can achieve your goal. What you imagine can be accomplished with the help of God, right? He walks in front of us. He's given us the blessing of being in this country and getting us where we are today.

Speaker 2 ([01:42](#)):

Everything in this life is possible, if you dream it so it will be. Even though I may be here today as a waiter, believe me, I've seen a lot of things. People like me, we may look poor, but we have a lot of heart and intelligence. How you dress doesn't reflect your heart, people need to learn how to see what others have on the inside.