[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=42bUna5iIJuFQihQNh_orawoo5lCLBFv46kfWjrqMUvC51PsycOC3Qv4FtfHJyPRrlpstYDEEUHkRMea6YuuRpc_woU&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1.86) And we got a little count down right there. You know what time it is. Okay. So we're rolling now.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=STshOOXbAZ5rjA3SfLuoe8R6rh2IKrvKJhAa9-37b5ZGwZkPUB9EOg6cXLEUljhz2QV1WUvCViEb2D6a8KEeyUlrPyM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=11.46) Well, thank you for letting us interview you today. Can we start with by introducing yourself?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=dbuR32e23kESdHaLjnKJBxN2aj3a2TMqzv4c4DTi4_7g0AfL2wj4YRi4QhLB7IKJ70-imY44_NbbWbI8Lbrfx8UyrPw&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=15.99) I'm Curtis Eabby. Long-time resident here at Southwest Baltimore, in Poppleton neighborhood.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=pRKtKSXIRQOdUzxQj-M15o4_M5bH5T_mMrgvIf1lW7w0EUNV9BoeWVm5qsf43Kg8zDKdW8YKYZuHBe39N3uHAaWczdQ&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=21.39) Great. So I was going to ask you about your relationship or your history to Southwest Baltimore.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ip0E74WtdYynfNh1AsJ4GQt5rBvTYx1MTDAKTX7vb52SH26QUg5pA4w5JRtOxa9K74L46MXcIhs4Y4VsG2oEU8f2GIw&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=26.95) So I'm a, say, third-generation resident in the area. Family has grown between Poppleton, Franklin Square, and Mount Clare, and Southwest Baltimore has been home for both sides of my family, mom's mom's side and mom's dad's side. I would say this has been my neck of the woods for generations.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=M18qRHK6AR2jvRw9RiErFfs6eHrF_h4g70CBdlcpnSM1FMP84-m_wu9vSMqqoxvXRVky5G_jX0k6x1s3KDPGyoQYL7c&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=48.2) So you're really connected to it, your family history is here.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=BCdsHZ6MtzP_HKSQWZeyoWnzNl16vFUvq86_dU2mn-t3AY87Ir_0ntw8Xhqunan7nV45aucwUyDTZzn8P12WQ7XXVIE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=51.39) Yeah. ... Sorry. Repeat the question.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hnQiuv-jEcH_uRktpwr7wzG88WeXqkc98yI4GV6djD4UUuiKW6m_B77AwWPUd1hPJcEByzvAZzki2mBHenhn3d30PAU&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=56.57) No, I was just summarizing what you were saying.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=evOi-gdLYodNTm-u_-dxmqaPJx9vOWhopxNUUQX4Zg0KbmuQVI7KlnPiX11BKaRYjUnYhOb5wx59SDeEYVioDgZqyfc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=60.37) Okay, okay.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=-r2E__reAEMNooCRkweqeSq7aKhoeYkhwjWVPLLLFyOdknLZebXseBcbQ4S_dh_dcfaPZISw8CQtgXF2Riu3TbIyt-c&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=60.74) Does your family still all live here? Most of them live here still?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2_GMQz4K_C5JX5yOricSrMSNX2iw0ucopmMOgqUBJZGJJ5rRYxeNlxqz6g-SFfg8hc8lWKF_Nr6BPJDLvjmrzid4AvM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=63.01) So right now we have my grandfather still lives in the area, he's in Poppleton. My mom, dad, sister, and I have 30-some cousins, between cousins ... and between Franklin Square and Poppleton. So it's a lot of us. Some of them I don't know, I just been meeting more. In 2016, one of my great uncles had ... great aunts had passed, and we had the chance to meet some of the family that's up in [Gilmor 00:01:30] area. So evolution, always learning. Southwest Baltimore's always seemed like ... I can't get away from it. And it's not a bad thing. I don't want to get away from it, but despite ... I moved out of Southwest Baltimore prior for a short period of time up to Northwest in Park Heights. And family ... just learning that my ties are so strong here. It's a proud moment, I'd say. Definitely it's a surprise to know that you have support in this big community. A lot of things have been happening, when I came back ...

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vpBlUxLI0seJ7DAOr37FsEatgYllJOsFwIzqmZMUXE5rj9yuZ1fsC0OIHst9ZoHZdq2BaWFHqLsYzP4918fRst7ExCA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=131) When I came back here in 2014, moved back in the area. Well, looking for a house in the area was difficult because I don't have a lot of good credit, I was just a young college student, and they had this vacancy value program, so just to learn about the support that my family will be able to get, my daughter being able to get somebody to watch her in the morning, my grandfather being like, "Well you know you got a great aunt up here who lives right 'round the corner on Elk Street." I'm like, "No, I didn't know." So, just like I said. That family ties a connection.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=xTqIaNGR469RbGK6TiEA2rpPSqm4fVA6YwjWtUF_GoNBHg5gNQqNBLh0zvwZ0xPkegrC4liC62fRjQDW_nMp55lH03Y&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=161.21) Brought you back and-

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CbwJ7Bpck6neuHbikwyZsB8F-x7pFMk9LjOwVsZiGxTr2xbroDvKqn6cMuExUaVYxfzpxA37wncl-ZhujqKm_x-lXUo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=161.68) Brought me back. And I'm still looking. Still looking to purchase a house, seeing about my opportunities. I would like to purchase even a Hollins or Pigtown. Yeah, they're more at the moment, already a bit developed. Where Poppleton is going through a total new redevelopment. Housing, mainly public housing development, with the urban renewal plan. So, it's a lot cheaper to buy here now, but looking at amenities and things, closer to the highway. Pigtown gives my daughter like the big Carrol Park. We don't really have parks here in Poppleton. Or Franklin Square. Not typically of that type of amenities and access. So just for the amenities I would move closer to Pigtown or closer towards the [inaudible 00:03:25] area.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=RmkiAkY1nVVjRAhZ3rc5VZ3zNsvN2LNCZ_tAvnGY-gv1RmgK434jm39J_47BrugwcVVvUXjvTG471TBHapXQ2RsPo6Y&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=206.75) To meet the needs of you and your family.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6GN2oPBG_sXyH_oVpeHLkoKTqq9gqVtt_e7PK0XN-rj1VHymRlk1aFet3oBvPIgWNShGWjNO7VUxGauP9zO3NViwDx4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=209.17) My family, yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=s8oD4xbno-Idu7aKiEWOW6O_-_fNwPqLO_SMxTm6Yfv4noUeZ5dOk1Qv96403zrH7QVDdhs6_UJ9KPMimnLo-8-MTG4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=210.57) That's great that you have so much connection, and your family's been here a long time, and um. Can you tell me some of your memories of growing up in this area?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=AdQy_1DyznjT1C6Rtt2ENAcs8VOg0TfXpx48jQ14SEggh6N8GeSQFwKHP43IUM7-2NsfpRw6XKQzmHhwuBdwsCO_RUo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=222.05) One of my earliest memories, we first purchased this property 319 North Carlton, I think it was like 2004. Between 2002 and 2004. Actually, before then. 'Cause I was in middle school. It had to have been in the 90s. Wow. Playing baseball here in the little back alley. So in Poppleton and Franklin Square, they got all these squares. So between blocks, the back of the houses have a square park-ring space where it was just community space. So behind this Carleton Avenue, getting a chance just to come down to play basketball, play baseball with my cousins who I didn't see as much of frequent.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=P8tQvWzi2hKUS4M-eyZyMNqctvTmXEN7yK4JFQEQFpNU8L7LLrfLh9IDyFOXpuug4FOg3xDbv69rBIXJTWNfdzIik1o&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=263.99) So my mom really grew up in the neighborhood. She was born, raised on Kern Street, and I was raised, early parts of my life further west. So we would always come down and frequently visit my grandparents, my great aunt. But just having the Boys and Girls Club, frozen cup lady 'round here at Amity Street. Going down, I remember that actually, the first chance I got the chance to learn about Edgar Allen Poe was just going to get a 25 cent frozen cup. And the lady had a flyer, and she was doing like a poetry reading. There was a poetry reading at the church, and they was looking for young poets. I think I was in the 7th grade then. I did my first poem at my church. And mother's like, "You should apply and come do your poem here for the Edgar Allen Poe Poetry Event!" And ... I didn't do that, but just getting the chance to really learn about the history young. So I didn't know who Edgar Allen Poe was at that time. That he was a famous poet, or anything about him. So that was just an experience to see some of the history here in Southwest Baltimore, specific in the neighborhoods.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=EBdE0rrynKILNVuym1Wbzfb0sw2EZw7kmZ6n4Mw3HUXUZtaRNq5_Hk2jB4RmKHYM4jgtprY0-fP4f54cBrHY_BMkLuA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=332.73) But that was just, as a kid, having a large family of a lot of brothers. Well, a lot of boy-cousins, 'cause I had all-sister siblings, this was like my time I had a chance to get out and run the streets. I was young enough that I didn't have to work in the house, I was always playing, where my siblings and brothers're always out here working. My cousins was all working. So just me and the younger kids just getting a chance to rip and run through the streets.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=b0C99bHScosY-7QPPdn0at-6rcivUIDqIapcl6kvjTHmCumIonTN5VxOMEJAbTRk3ShmZRQDDv0xQiSHvgOEnuZdSKo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=362.63) Outside of just the Poppleton, my grandfather being a stable runner. He, I wouldn't say owned the stable. I thought he owned the stable at Hollins. You would've thought I was gonna be, I'd tell everybody, an equestrian. Just because, getting a chance to ride a horse at six years old. You know, trotting around this little square that, to me, seemed like acres. He had six horses at that time, a black beauty, there was a like gray polka-dot, brown. And then there was a white horse, and ... I was the only one of my siblings they had go in, feed horses carrots, apples, and brushin the horses. Climbing up in the hay room. Like I really thought that I would grow up one day and then own the stable. Didn't happen, but having the chance to grow up and come back to the community and the stable still bein' here ... It's a proud moment. Driving through the community and going by. My grandfather no longer is involved with the stable, but that part of his life I think just gave us a connection. Because sometimes as his only grandson at that time, we didn't have a big connection. You know, it felt like just a generational gap. My sisters' got a lot more attention, but when it came to the horses, me being an animal lover, that's the way him and I connected. So it was just, getting the chance to spend time with my grandfather.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=pDsQKXq3J2u9VfubR0VAzcn0CoAQA7sc5hx9h7r9QuhHq7slS1AcfUG79RlI_NV29DEnLXbRHKl7n-ikIL9kEvNABiw&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=448.69) And I think outside of the stable that was ... really the most of the time we spent together was working at the stable. So that would probably have to be my most fondest memory, then. Working with the stable, working at the stable with my grandfather. Learning to ride the horse. At that time it was the pony first, and then moving up to the horse. I still can't ride a horse like, fast, because I would only trot around. But that's a bucket list item. Learn to ride a horse, and buy one.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rq7jxpO6vZlFHgaYMIGEX0ztY-pGAeY8al9tLZ9lSJ9hgjesHRB4LJRLVrin2U9h8I7ojPxlNDi8VrGiB1EbnXhqVK8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=478.66) You'd like to buy one?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KOaBAMVIFptONtj_zuU7cOG_MyAnUD4lZLg8emx0xP3LMdcBTF1-T8vA1pDRgx8cTe_grAXH2X1AXJNXZP15RLcusso&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=481.31) Yeah! I mean, if possible in the future still, purchase the stable. I know that was something that he wanted to do, my grandfather wanted to purchase the stable and keep it in the family. We were unable to do such so, if I can in the future, I will definitely purchase the stables.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4zbTrzGee_PWyh_uedDU3qbTOZyGN9RquDgu4j-iQxI3j6_d09tKinuXBTUPu2aAPY9X2wB043-XUAf_OnzpJj99jXE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=498.72) Have you been to the stable as an adult?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=jUOGrbTdcrM_JeKHJIvfqQFbdHEtHMdBNOYbwuFYE7nKo7WWPdwARHz47aItqnwoZz-nVsLVq4LBXjvQ7xUQKSW9ak8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=501.82) Yeah. So, it's a part of the tours. Been working with the neighborhood, doing historic tours. So January 20th, 2018, the stable reopened. They were closed briefly because they lost permitting for their horses. So in January they reopened, and got a chance to do a tour, I've been working on a campaign to get them some funding. I actually did help them receive funding to rebuild one of the wagons. So as in my adult life I've been, I guess more of an advocate for the stable. Just getting people over there to know that they're there. Getting city agencies like the Baltimore National Heritage to hopefully support through grants. So we got a story written up and was able to get the $500 to support their wagon.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Qnn98j0-tIEGPdZvYzzDxfcJW8xqjxIrusEh4ZndbF0EV7VdWgRJJvAC-aRuNu1QlU9a8V4kn6Ue12WlI5FLSrWImc0&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=549.97) Wow.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=4KqPx0QCWx4_GJzP8LzKf2w3q9nivgk51K6xZMOnn9rJ9BAlYM-Rkz7GBFS_9dNrOzBksw7HVKIePeWlNDEhPwhKYac&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=550.03) So that, still I'd say it's ... wouldn't just be a proud moment, that's a feather in my hat, I would say. Yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zaoCh-ygIPw7Rm8VasKtZ3isEIelgnWwTK6DYJ7SCvZ1RvEx_GaFWTjGb6zx3BkUltOnf6sQcGkKGqoUcL7s9xMg4BY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=560.64) And going there, does it remind you of your grandfather?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MM2mKF1xg2flrbCiBgPeqWHFFbVlYtGS6aUdQuUXCZGrvn7jRjwSUd0TaXBItotATYNbiMasOgtWIvv8B72i4cX1HnY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=562.36) All the time. All the time. It's a little sad now, I still don't fully know why ... So like, when I graduated I came back to Baltimore from college, I was very much interested and invested in, "Hey, let's do something with the stable, let's do something to reconnect with my family." And he was just totally adamant that he didn't want any part to do with it. So up until last summer, just having conversations with him, I think it brings back so much for him, and because he really wanted to purchase it and was unable to for whatever reason, he just don't wanna think about it, don't wanna relive some of that.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_cEpolWPhK9i4ng0Qc26pl9HYiUwEyl-bdSUkP_IwfV7ZWQzGrGvTYTMkcjNui2XYQ3Mm80vPjF28gpnd5j_yzOUT2I&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=603.98) So it has been a little disheartening, 'cause since summer 2017, the more I've gotten active and engaging with the horse stable, I've been trying to just have conversations with him, learn more about, "Hey, what about this?" Or "Who are these people? What are some processes that if we wanted to get a ... " I was trying to see about purchasing the wagon for my nephews, and you know get them started with it. Get the next generation into arabbing. And he's like, "No." He don't want to talk about it, he didn't want to do an interview. So. I still gotta figure out why, because that's a big part of my life with him, and for him to not want to relive and share it ... I don't know. Trying to figure out why.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=J5Yg9sjCO4iNBHgFMqZwXK1rJg6E42q-pxLKO27vWdzF0SI9mBH6eCjaV1tUWK2xio5dk2n-XeOr9xzJNFQom9THrTI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=644.99) Something to think about, and take your time with.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_jo5N2VKd5pAoX84vAkRZPYKJOfRN_7dqqwdKWZZrbpqDF0_WSwKXX_hOSOqNp9xPQ1rFTialIMbzqAqBazfZXkDspg&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=647.35) Yeah. Take my time with him. But Hollins's Market, going down still. I can catch him every Saturday, Sunday, just both Tuesdays and Thursdays. Going down to the Hollins' Market to get his breakfast and a coffee.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=um_LIz-x6avFhda8cATiw1qNsbW9Q-JA0XFCshyUDXmpPfFYuny-RBxFyUyxhQHa6W9jTm-PFZDZt7sm1WvhDcu1VdU&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=661.82) Your grandpa?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gnxKwuIkI02XF_0mlExgaeGjtcILIFdMQFOn2jlmwPhelkEHZol1jz-Z85WC5_hfFJlJk6MjecXCWfPVeW6B9yrFJcE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=662.32) My grandfather.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=WCyXddHcP7GVqLwV5GtrD-ZJXR_wpOE0Du1TWKsX_ebY9WGxyB6NF7l5K9F7o-Lbg8kxeSACL5eYiD2ax6cpZ5DR0XI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=663.96) He's got that routine, you know where to find him.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=JT2RsgOYZNYYuV_Zkiq85w4ajKcSvYPpoB5j2yORFam5HAy5SgXaXEK9WAmkIwI7sdY-fnEHRvs2KyUitF_9nBrHR6Q&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=665.41) Yep, yep.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=erxl2_ta65Tb1qnJp-7ae_TjoMTtm1sbqG_eEUYHN_dDX8Aysaby13BN3ex9V75XV_H-ev43mRAEUWz44PdrYAarEN0&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=665.41) That's great.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ywXmHuyYL7xBA-s_kflmTsYhTMF5gUdtq881h7-3GLeUSEcANzrBSzFq8glchP6T0NQYyU4IXacco7vMMEtDqiQ1Md4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=668.9) Yeah. He hasn't switched that much at all.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=r-X1T9iZXn0_8jTJygWGmnwvbWuQSEsW_sfqE1mrkkUClEwlmlcl3o7CmQRSdd5an_oKqNLc-irC8s0Rf-0tlp0gEeo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=674.09) Do you have any interesting facts or stories or memories, besides what you've already talked about, about this area? Specifically maybe West Baltimore Street?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=wYCu6oUjYdrvYfuU7IkcsfmXsWprnBVe1sTBd3FD-oS-I7aU7LIzm4mxfoWahY0IqXHofhj8BmFWdk11qEXXJPBHARo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=686.53) Specifically the West Baltimore Street? ... West Baltimore Street used to be ... even in the 90s, so Southwest Baltimore was just a lot more lively than what it is now, it's 2019. The current state is a bit depressing to me, driving through this city in summertime, there are no people. Like, Baltimore is just known for people being out on the street, or in their fronts. It may sound like a negative thing, but you don't have yards. There wasn't a lot of green spaces. So people congregated on their front. You would see almost like block parties as you walked through or drove through this part of Southwest Baltimore. And now it's just empty. So, there aren't many attractions on West Baltimore Street. I remember an Afro-Centric guy, he owned this rehab- ... He fixed refrigerators, washing machines, all appliances and electrical situations and electrical issues. I learned how to troubleshoot a washing machine. So my mom, bless her heart, she's a do-it-yourselfer. And I remember working with her on this washing machine and I'm like, "Mom, we're not gonna get it." Came on down West Baltimore street, she got some parts just to see. And I guess those parts went back and her and I fixed it. Like, I didn't have hope or faith in her.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=z-_OjTWQdUkfwD1pUuBOo4_ELe52hXayrwj_HOf5B8ulji4yh-AZtJaSHLYJApolYsg5iPFIPGnqyJpGnuM2XD8rpvI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=777.38) But the stores on West Baltimore Street, it was the churches, convenient stores, grocery stores, entertainment spots, hair salons. It was a lot of mixed use up and down West Baltimore Street, even the old gelato factory was made into like a [Jeepers 00:13:14]. So going there, playing miniature golf, you don't get that in the city, you know? To have little spaces for community things or for families just to come. Now in West Baltimore Street, I think it's about 25% occupied? So again it's not really an attraction or a destination. And I would love to see it back bustling, back with just vibrant ... even the greenery, the trees are dying. Man.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hnTj0WpjRhzQanzxys4uQ1NsiendNTBD-yt45Nn1da3jD1nE-feZjjWA3xbiyPXh-al3O8jVqyzN43IMpNsFzEzR6EA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=830.83) It's 2017, I hosted my own performance, it was a pop-up performance, for the Ceasefire. The Baltimore Ceasefire event, it was at the corner of Carey and Baltimore Street. They had a big grand open space there, public lot, and it was a very welcoming experience. For me, as a community member, I had get some support from neighbors, but I think because I pushed the envelope of this positive content and, "Hey everybody, let's do something different!" You know, a lot of people don't like change. So for me to come and gather an audience of over 50 people, a lot of young people, it was a pop-up so it wasn't promoted. And just to see the response. Business owners came out and they like, "Man, are we doing this? Is this something that we're gonna be doing frequently?"

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=z3y5CH6P2Gzf0hRpvorPNfhFvevbwXXtCCXL2WzFrw-21C24ir3Pxn2zO2DR0QVwtAGSMc-kP0czTzIKKfSCjtg-BY8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=888.97) And then people's response to the ceasefire. Like, West Baltimore Street gets this nefarious ... they get a bad rep. So with the bad rep, it's like nobody wants to go down West Baltimore Street, and I walk proudly up and down West Baltimore Street. Checking spots at Bill's place, got my laundry done with Miss Lisa, got my taxes done with Miss Lisa up there. So it's like, supportin' what's yours. Supportin' what's ours in the community, and reinstilling that hope. And that's what I planed to do with the pop-up performance. Just to bring some hope back to my neighborhood, to my community. It's crazy this, not West Baltimore Street, but I tried the same pop-up in Park Heights, and Northwest, and drug dealers came and was like, "No, we're not having this on our corner." And I'm like, "It's just to DJ some positive music." And they like, "No, you're going to interrupt our commerce here. And we don't need no extra attention." So I'm like, "Wow." And went back home.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=i_ayVtTEjufZQ4hnYGMO0WJ5-_ZseDejign0-PlARbHfQu7Bc9632FMiftXzKvihnf7y_ROaM4ldLToOdLtRgsF7YrE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=952.12) So I brought that same performance, same motto, that same day down here to West Baltimore Street. And it's still home, not just to me, my family they came out, supported. And just still have that same loving Sowebo vibe, you know. The collectiveness of white people, some Hispanics came out, I even wound up opening the mic to a senior who did poetry, and then a young guy who wound up rapping as well. So just seeing a community come alive, and come together, West Baltimore Street seems like where all that happens. So the neighbors from Hollins, neighbors from Poppleton, Franklin Square. At the end of the night, that's what I started asking them, I said, "Well, what made you come over?" They said, "Well I was up in the park, and I heard the music, so I came down to see what it was." And I was like, "Okay." You know, it is hope here. And people are looking for great things to happen, and people are looking for a reason to get engaged. So I was glad to be able to make that happen in West Baltimore Street.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=K6Vyn7meqFMQTNY-N-UfoixW_lofTeJHezPeLTdbeZBWUNjaIylbzMSoGqa4ihW9-pL31jrw1gQUXwykQGLbSA0fqhc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1012.72) So it sounds like you recognize that art is a vehicle for bringing the community together and making the community stronger.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=mCcy96qvV8N4f0kCJftClgxK7PbwnZ2OvLHDoXnGUEZ7ARhzJqev_FDtVCjDcxENfoonBBBr6Ee6E4miQ_Os6ihXcYg&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1019.35) Yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=EgE0t_WrQBTOc7r2AwBZx9kQUASYG6fTGmufQvQYkLLLxPfolUJCIcyh9TpN0fnQzK-N7Bavlzk5v2GskZqb6xhjW4I&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1020.05) So you mentioned poetry and DJing, so can you tell me a little bit about what you do?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=1c7jXCoP8GZSkay6UxcB53JoIVojs92xzxKJ8CCrW9oiTf2BKwWHbnXRmJ0utECNzCHibQscTr1omc2K5_F6LI5HO-I&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1026.45) Yeah. I didn't say it in the beginning, so Curtis Eabby is the artist, and I'm moving into a social entrepreneurism. But as an artist I rap, I do more hip-hop in general, so. Performance art, DJing, and rapping, you know the MC [Bassback 00:17:23]. It's my life, I feel like music changes the world. You know, hip-hop itself is the one genre that transcended beyond barriers, across the globe. So people in Asia is making hip-hop music because of the relation with struggle. The urban environment isn't much different, rules and regulations for poor people don't change, where you go. You just don't have what you don't have. So to be able to have a voice, or be a voice for people who don't seem like they have much of a voice ... that's what I felt like art does, or music does. Give people that voice of self-expression. But my idol is Michael Jackson, I feel like he healed the world, or was on a mission to heal the world through music. If it's donating proceeds from concerts to poor countries or third world countries, that's like what I would like to do with my art and music. Inspire people, be more thought provoking. So I use my creative ability to get you to think differently about the same spaces, same routine, same habits. And as an artist I study the behavioral aspect of hip-hop, and it's impact on my community and culture.

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=bFKsEkRVWIHpV2I7T18ikRuWyc3T57MIIqSykxEFHzO4e38Ote_iQUcriK_jdyYjYA08IXkkNuLQv_TemaAsDJTr0Y8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1119.94) Sorry ... Just [inaudible 00:18:45]. We're back up.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=iz9GiNnb9Jd6vbrDWEu0llvZwF18lw9xiEQbkj-hT7pyA6L9AbXg-fMnCCDhyThmG1tOuw5GYEr_IA76_z-4QytzIKk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1126.07) Okay, so you were talking about your artwork.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=sBCOOIF8pCFAf_71Sv6U-xQhoiyhgK2ZyNACPXmV9zpRqtOdg9PdekP7RicnZ2-uzEeSnlynduqDXSsGN0WOcDrrm5k&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1127.94) Yes. So visual artist, performance artist, hip-hop is my main medium. And that hip-hop I use to create thought-provoking messages and content. Looking to use my art and music to change people, the way they think the way they act, the way they view the world. But I DJ, I rap, and I'm getting into break dancing. I did a little bit, I'm not as limber as I used to be, but you might catch me doing some kick flips. Outside of that, I'm getting into graffiti, so the visual art of hip-hop. I feel like I paint pictures with words. Visual art was my art medium the first, until middle school. Then I left visual arts and fell in love with audio. So the whole gamut of audio. Writing the songs, in general, writing jingles. I wrote jingles for some small businesses in Frostburg. And creating campaigns, content, messages for media marketing campaigns. But usually like, social causes. So. When it comes to [inaudible 00:19:59] in my art, it's more social-cause related. That's why the thought-provoking. I don't just want to give you just entertainment. I feel like there's just too much entertainment.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_rC2FpSfPgKWN0w0pQ96I2v7lnJOwOSW8VeCn4ROPADWlwHc8Q0m4uyMYZfx6MxfCjuh7sbi88dkoxqojGAmI4AJ_k8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1208.2) And that part where I said, "Music can change the world and change lives," because if ... well, two things I felt, when I started our entertainment business. It's recession-proof, because people's always willing to pay for relaxation. They need to get away from their 9 to 5, get away from their kids, whatever the case may be. So, entertainment in general is to me, recession-proof, but it's the creative way of getting the message to people. Because if you've got these barriers, whether it be age, technology, racial barriers, demographic barriers, if you have something to attract them, they'll come. So having that music and its universal language. So. Yes, my music is looking to change the world.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=z3riM4FuKNXPF0WDeEoxbDHDybMuXkmIrdW7TKEFd3jCOlI7NVdwBKlMiE7kROY-c-eFV3B9M4tMxvZTBz8cELLDt0I&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1255.01) 2019, I'm actually going to be ramping up my efforts. I haven't consistently promoted myself as an artist, because of the contradiction of my day life versus my art. As a black African-American here in Baltimore, I try to be a symbol of hope for my peers, and I kinda put the role model hat on myself. And then it's like, how can I be as transparent, but my lifestyle, trying to hide imagery or hide aspects of my life from youth, kids who I've worked with. So. With my art, instead of being I guess, commercial artist, I took it into the school root. I was teaching hip-hop, I created a hip-hop curriculum that introduced STEM, science, and mainly engineering to youth. So as an audio engineer, they learned that they're troubleshooting electricity. They're not just pushing buttons and DJing, but they're an audio engineer. You're taking two different sound codes, combining them, and then relaying that to the public. And then this is a pathway for you to have business. So if you're not the talent on-screen, which they get paid the least, you can be part of the production aspect.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=42YQkklAlfQMajhI-fsUTL2dCcW6z5nUeMNoUO_pUOFDyoYYCYw8Jk5DLpqt50LWVAL4O3uvsNIsP4TmOnFqcdKG7ws&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1333.62) So just being able to help kids see, "Hey, this is probably the most commercialized product you see. You hear music, you see these rappers, but you think that it's all entertainment. You think that their life is what they say." And so many of the youth that I was dealing with, my peers, we grew up rapping and then, out of a group of six of us I'm the only one that's still doing it. So one of my cousins is serving another ten year sentence, trying to live the lifestyle of his music. So it's like, how positive can this be if it ends you into a place where you don't wanna be? Or unfruitful, unsuccessful, because you can't make money off your music in jail. You can't produce your music in jail. You can't freely be creative in jail, because it's just a depressive environment. You know? So let's use this as a tool that we can push the culture forward. And creating that STEM program for my hip-hop, it was "Hip-Hop: The Art of Rap" and my artist name is "Mr. Presidential." So. 2019 you'll be hearing some new music and seeing my first video.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MT2zpa3gakB7tHc7m7Wh7JOmkMGb92P-BhW-J4_EE7LQTIUF9ncazbpYnYMsVl8-0yHWrICTToUEZ5Jk2JSRkKxqcAI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1408.16) I'm excited.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6ZzAplQOG4acqWzPpoAFH9swY7i1l6OHg2Y5wYds59edCQwtaGX0CvhoOsz436dop9BDsAxD_P7zs8FveBVD1w5vDoo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1408.61) Stay tuned.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5-uVzcS-TbqNb0wVaVjO4Hoke2lN83_PBSV0T-_RWJ80n8_monMKLOyECeApLCwu9EsEUj9T7YTEGgv_33kOVDv73Qs&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1409.01) Sounds like you do this a lot in the community.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vkLkEU9B8amKNEEv6F-mAD9hrxqNbEJNSVeMOrYzB8V19uKQojeXAoLhICIMXNxRPybJ0L3IGHkt73uHXlRdDqR5ErM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1413.15) Yeah, a little bit of a lot. A little bit of a lot. So yeah, all my community effort and work seems to be through engagement, mostly through entertainment, again using entertainment and music to ... or aligning that with a cause. So me being a DJ for a 5k walk. Or me being the host for Reginald F. Lewis Museum when they was looking to just get up their new art galleries. So I worked with them 2009 to 2014 on just planning and promoting college-bound foundation, on how to get the youth to college. You know, so working with them for their 5k fundraiser, they bring artists down and, yeah. I feel like that's the gap. I just like filling that gap. Might gotta cut that part, but ...

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=WMWIY8v7cd_Kj9Wc0CvB57wEH1NsjimOdPsbOcSWZXnNzLXaFaaBe9HVSsYgxAecGlVlqN1vD-kLWgHCRyeYnXcJJRY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1469.11) So it sounds like you know a lot about the history of Baltimore. How did you learn about history? Is it something that you kind've learn as you grew up? And what do you think is most important about the history of Baltimore that you would like people to know?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MUWw0wk26Qoi6yTZAW5tLDXtgS1JZMIcskSGg2d-zqr-JoV7xNSjmEM4esMi3InbKXc8WCHObCXP0kt3Gj2zPByvkUM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1487.08) Baltimore is the birth canal of the United States. Curtis quote. Yeah, I feel like Baltimore city has been the backbone ... and not even the backbone, but the city's older than the nation itself. I mean when it was just 13 colonies, Baltimore city was here. So, a lot of things systematically. Baltimore history ... I don't know. I think a lot of it I learned as I came up. I'm just a history buff though, like history and art. Art is history, and I look at life through a creative lens, so the B&O Railroad, you know. Getting into the industrial revolution and it's like, this is here in West Baltimore? Like to learn, you hear the B&O, Baltimore, Oregon, but you don't think all the time that, "This is in my backyard."

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=j2IBS5DZvPrpxDlcSS5OKLGb1I5TroGq14tYxUvX04tKx-5Zqyvm60JVHU6XBdSax_2iCTL3bdw41DlxxB8D1ZQ3HAE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1548.4) Then doing beyond that art aspect kind've made me more of a history buff. Seeing photos from the Star Spangled Banner, they had like the bombs bursting in the air at the harbor, and I was like, "Well, let me learn about the harbor more, and its history." So visiting bars in Fells Point, they teach you some history. The Admiral Inn, it's a hotel over there, Fells Point. Staying there I learned about, the harbor used to recede further back up into ... it was beyond Baltimore Street. But just learning that the harbor was a lot larger, that they created this bank and drove the water back so that they can have more commercial, and more city life I guess, along that area. It's like, "Wow." So I think it was water up until Druid Hill Park. You know, so like Druid Hill Park's history was unique to learn, but Baltimore itself and me, the way I just operate.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zNFf3JOTFmtJRTyGbircRB7yWdzu3id3Rk3v-ec-HhSp0yMWRETawSBhGUF8tVdqb86E1VZqftLdOewnZV0aFv5Zkv4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1614.97) ... We're gonna keep running but I'm gonna answer that question from the beginning. So Baltimore's history, as being a history buff, I fell in love with Baltimore history. And ... keep bits and pieces of all this. And what was the second part of the question? My idea of ...

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HRzucGV6bGijkCi95O1YWqrZj-naR1FguYxja_D3CBkIKGrxmCEb_BOhZFOfflNSwzKhjnAIUKbZeYd6krGR1F72PL4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1641.88) I know a lot about Baltimore history ...

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rDrQpfSLOc9iUZ_FvveJ0cBi6WkFI34HafJa1tus25AAIhiMsYhHNjUnMmDM7Etf-pqyLezQ3_qYGGYnIlIV22-XmdE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1645.11) What do you think is important for people to know about the history of Baltimore?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VxEZY94bl6MigUt7VQgK7nMfwa7-bTyvkWzXPSotT0ufvTJBKu_5fU4GxK7bKQdxVb8Bc5v3ZER1o3h2gZHhvi6bayg&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1647.66) Okay. I think it's important for people to understand Baltimore, honestly the history and culture. I call it "The beautiful side of ugly." So I started this campaign to just highlight Baltimore history, Baltimore culture, places and people. A lot of people outside of Baltimore thinks it's a war zone. They already know it as The Wire versus as a historical city. Baltimore is a great place for visitors, like tourism, getting down to the harbor. But not just in the harbor, people come here and just only go to those Harbor Inn attractions. And never peek out into the neighborhoods where most of the artifacts are. Like traveling into Hollins, seeing the Market, which is the oldest public market here in the city, seeing and traveling over to the B&O Railroad, taking that one mile of the first industrial railroad track.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=d4-0atRTYebAUP5mJXvakI4QWyb1d_kYVb5umJypO33e8Hil81hzrG7vnnAIVjtQD6ODFg9aIN3AcrU35C--7wA2GQI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1713.65) I wasn't expecting nobody.

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LOqbJsPd7lfLZCd7FLBqe_fbm7swpBJcQgUpRGQWiC99AIRKtK4L3kC3Rq84oFt4hEiP4tIKQ6Tb62TNko2zabKryoI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1739.74) You weren't expect-

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LTHyglnwZ6emE_M6-g0g0CEM74AJ9P79ICCSpws__Y3fTP4Iiw1LkcBdWlS0NCgRldKGnwR_6cSssosWBEeJ_PokYGk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1739.8) That's my dad. [crosstalk 00:29:00].

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XmyjCbv0YVScr-JVfB3ZV-wr0iLKbiHoaz4BhHJ2-Gnt0mYgfax22DFFgvYtdVBqPd3XApp7_E2A1NLyQmjYxezvxR8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1739.8) Hi!

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=uAgKn1NvU7Yk_DGVSHbYiK-PfTWmbV9cT7IutE4RbpyFNyNBcws0fSIWDYL_U4y1BNHVU3QzZCgZ8Xg6MBZieY31_bE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1744.82) We're still rolling!

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=VZP3qT5DNuYfcKAxBO7oKkiguRbcBb1-bG7EEAu7ffZDcdI07-G53GivD8_xg5RqU9QSFVfKGusKvwojF4w1IUvkeEY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1746.11) Oh, okay. And what were you saying? Does anyone remember?

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vOQeGT6oteXbXgBXOKifDM0r22qZqW8PQE0JanRs5TKKhpLl6AslxvCowbLFXSUIkeAiH7cDkz1pEtG32jwCkFB_yJc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1753.94) Yeah, you were talking about the history of Baltimore.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=m85su9TrB4KGkllDpHGSOZRfMwuQGqoOubGPk5ei0h1kwfVaRBeCOlxz0CuU8fKAKIo2WH12Dce0G_jfq68tz5HsIrg&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1761.26) They don't leave one mile away from the harbor-

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XlVNKTOKSwT-Ki3dUFlXDCbxofLAFl4_HYeb-mHCRZfvP0QANPDUxiyXGnMY6vXZjS84-KE1UrxtcW3nJqIN6HEN20M&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1764.22) Getting beyond The Wire.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5vQCe3nGqFucIWTRE__GWOnHF73sSC-nmHOgsBd2qtDuwVDLmuS6nPdi6F-HHL2756V54srYrUkh6yYFqKQx5S-DTCw&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1765) Gotcha, getting beyond The Wire. Coming out of those tourist attractions and into the neighborhoods. I actually still consider doing like a "Wire" tour. So people who've seen The Wire, so fascinated or terrified, actually come and visit because part of the scenes was shot here in Southwest Baltimore. This same block, well 200 block of Carlton Avenue. I remember I was in 10th grade and I went down to be an extra. I was not an extra, or I didn't make the cut. But a teacher at my 10th grade high school at Carver, she worked for Flash Studios and referred me to come on down. But just to sit and watch the production of that, and the story that they're telling, it's ... I don't know. The people who live here in Baltimore, for me at least I'd never watch The Wire, I've never seen a complete season, because it was more of a reality I didn't want to see. Things glamorizing the negative aspects of our city.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MCmFRtWzd7v5dBjE-Bpx4g1dksqIJJpMdrfaAfGkgMDsBrVtNxPPcFBdcckzUntIgj0GbxEcwqJqeDOZm7uqHpz1_Nc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1830.93) Too much?

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=uVB-Y6qXhe0Q73RC46bJtvNkOC45a0o0oWJ1qgKLzMgUw9QgehN_dnyXeXf1lmefRqWh93Hr_Sq1uLzP_RS91X0_M00&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1832.02) A little bit yeah.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5rUHW4h37ox5_10xvenuxOyg2LjNHjzrMMZrwlkgXSJ6f_Kh2rd0GAwXQ-2zaTW2yE5OB5sFiB-axR1i0Xdlf0bfWdA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1833.54) Hey B?

[Speaker 4:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Ggq8p5yg6AP4_zl7GOhD97n7r76LpYV20fy7hT8HjlFsONaoLPy6hU5QoyWBe2CT6BPh6rCXlmYgwL8VN-tN55JRi9Y&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1833.77) Yeah?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Vehgzj0T4OUgUAd6rmq3C8SVrtE1dEzPZJMfBlnKxJRsWn2IJyJx1Oa1QUDrrOljCH8pw5SHZN667oxja4ogPNwPUSc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1833.83) Can we take the chips up? Lessen a little bit of the crackling?

[Speaker 4:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hUGpGypkLUcaXE7cc-VhQZofVylO-x0yHDz-VxWxarEm9gpqK-tsFwbp5-OeGs4dC18xmazm-9ErnfDpD3093wwrQdQ&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1839.06) My bad.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ftmF0SqDIYlPq6Mvtm2gfSiqn6pQcuWnssi29HM6KcwA2u6glmoy5cY8-LU8wbrCGYnvUG2UF5WDuQi5c2mx-Bz5VAg&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1841.78) No problem, didn't know, 'preciate ya.

[Speaker 4:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=GPDALSnPROFAax2XQJtWdu6fiY8JPHgyMb4vK3Ad8RcFEzR6MaxYwX4DiisF_57ZvW64SpbtPfyZPIQVW4wAHgN_d7Y&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1847.29) That's not chips, it's cookies.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=PfnferQYGlgFplZqT3a0XEcfmF-obb85Cn1EBjOMqR8AbMIoKVzL_0QQMv2E8qWytFSy2tH6KHOCveHI4Ot3mMCpqiw&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1847.33) Okay.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KC6BUsLRyzcythT3Vhs3ZUF2kgg_u9fawhO1cMPmspzi78G4XwBWuy3xCjpF_JSqVHfrsqF81NzHHRMMeJhMs4I5bAo&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1848.34) [inaudible 00:30:48]

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=CHyWJgEm25DQ0o_L20M5rILhCFS7izmlwK2WcgKXafc0o1QxeD3N80Cu4liLaAWiZIGNNcQswDwDtBX0zOMhcy5zBKk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1848.34) Yeah, right?

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UPmmQphLfhbx4PmAFKWwj1nGSzyssR1Kjyd8XZuXGD4FSAr0W_d92iGRHVMXX3CWEk9nMWvyxvREfJqPoZFE7CL8nJ0&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1851.35) Pick it up, dude.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=jZKYeFPNWNTCwQ-z4hr7jcUA9xvJdiulPskSGrOnCDTVFi_r33RMhyNw1Oyh5NafK7YA7J3O1IOpFd1H3fngc5ryups&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1852.43) Okay.

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=I-LgpBLEaQL7CmI6wuWoKfbOIrQbEV1vui3xCtBKnY6MuhUcQkYZUsnM86qRRWta_hyXTF0S05K-HA17pTC9aGGmd80&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1853.61) Hold on just a second.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=v6s4Moljy2Sp5kRHZoWpycLBpm6iB1F4Sow4Xq64hvBFFMJSLUaYjRnkc6iCjd5tFr9M4QZ3wGoziOZ2HRNOqWrPnls&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1862.89) So really just, coming out of The Wire, showing people the beautiful side of ugly. Being able to appreciate Baltimore history. I think my grandfather being a piece of the history, with the arabber stable. I learned my grandmother, my mom's mom, she was actually the first female transportation company owner in Baltimore. So that's actually like two things to highlight, because she was an African-American and a female business owner, and this was in the 70s. She started a company at the end of like, '69, but she had the first contract with the Red Cross delivering blood from the University of Maryland out to Fredrick, Maryland. So like, my grandmother being a part of Baltimore history, my grandfather being a part of Baltimore history, it built a sense of pride in myself. Like, "We are of great people." And I felt like having that self-identity is something that the black culture community lack. A lot of Baltimore residents don't get outside of their block, or their neighborhood, and that has become the culture.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hMC1CroogPNv97HaC99eYPL1UM24Mp9YHBEpg5rd3OhYV_ITxXMoJnLti0DEVvzWatEkHXuuwY71UJLVgsHHzIYO_Xs&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=1939.04) So people just stay in this bubble, they never explore outside, they never really think, "Well what was this ten, fifteen years prior to?" So having I guess the uniqueness of entrepreneurial grandparents and parents and that type of leadership, and learning that the evolution of time in Baltimore hasn't changed in so long. My grandma was like, "It's still the same city." Still a lot of the same barriers. It definitely has physically changed over the last 30 years, so here in Southwest Baltimore you got the [Bayer 00:33:01] Park where it was never ... I mean 12 years ago you had that first building erected, but you didn't have the campus. You didn't have Center West here, Velocity, this big high-rise concrete structure that's going to be condos and apartments. You had more low-rise regular town homes.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Chb_R9dS_CsWgVKZqNz4q-k16wnC4OCjtVYHabfiGO_bTPAIVOnfy3jXIIa9zwLuv_QIokq0ZewQ7VyGiItIBYtfYds&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2005.01) And so the area and the culture is changing. People who historically never visited this area are starting to move in. So to actually see people, I say middle-upper class ... yeah a lot of people who I know, who I've met in the last two years who won't go on Baltimore Street, purchase houses within the neighborhood surrounding Baltimore Street. And it's like, "Well why? Did you know about the history of these neighborhoods? They have been segregated by neighborhood boundaries. So if you never venture out to this business or this corridor, you're perpetuating this segregation." You know, it's like, "Well, my mom in Mount Clare, and my grandmother in Mount Clare, live in Adventure Street. They had to walk along Fulton Avenue, and then cut down Baltimore Street, versus coming through Union Square. Because they just didn't want any trouble. So they would avoid these, where it probably took them an extra ten minutes to get up and down, when you coulda cut across the Union Square Park. So, yeah. I feel like if you don't know where we come from in the past, it's a little difficult to understand where we come from and why. And having that self-identity or understanding of self and where you come from, your culture, your family, helps you to understand or be motivated and having more moving forward.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=IGMnZKr1w5Xq2dnpQP4ziAGMnyppiKs80CJnOAUiTwNNvst7oa-HuJ1f-Xuj2T0YBCfXhxBamGH9foDCuv-UclgVbmc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2096.26) So, I'm looking out the window and thinking of a friend of mine who used to live across the street. He was murdered. He was a producer, he produced several of my tracks, and he'd never been outside this block. Well, the Southwest corridor. His first time going to East Baltimore was with me. And I'd move, I started driving in 2006. Like to get out of your neighborhood, that history of Baltimore is, that's a bad piece of Baltimore. People just staying in this bubble. Not exploring, not having any hope or insight that they can amount to more. Living in section 8, you don't have to because you can move out of your neighborhood. Where some people feel like, "I gotta live here. I don't have any other options."

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=te7to8EfUKQ-F8Tz4MeUseeNlIHITvYEgBIs_laWE15gCG3tEPWcKxRncboBCkIcew2NxbxI_3WDa4POyiJQkDKTZ1o&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2148.07) ... I know I didn't answer the question-

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3q0LJY9_5F-8yhotSoBo5LJxTlyjqjwIzDIc7i0-C_5tw2ZeRwUFJlRGI4Wqn1xfAsQJcVxZk9jo1BU_ZYjB80NE3jI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2150.91) No, you're good. So it sounds like though, what you're saying in some ways, is like the tourists or people who live outside the city need to be more willing to travel within different parts of the city.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KypU2DjAvb3jdd1Bv0y9mLmIWbd8aNbgyvmW_wjVvCfL6V_voSIucICUuZBXc5XujBnTImrMUVp5LV53xVTgqT4ePfY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2161.52) Yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=MjDIeAwvNpxBHQVJaCLHtyOUZiMuwDY_7IxE0Mv-lOxxEsMHPfDmBUevPrRZ17SOhgQrYjL3xaQmisTNDCBcCP8w0FU&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2161.66) And same thing with residents that live in the city, they need to travel out.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8UPWq3LNTRkCvRdxTZy9sj-Yhn52MTqRYZTiZ9gwGKJitdYJYdVIG4yuvfxdc3FWP7eCK05Um04OTiVgv7YOM6pVaEc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2164.77) Outside, yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=l2LwMAgH7WuU_lXdgAZmuMYm0JjGlqIdC3-_yuCs2lqdElWZnfik06BuYn1Uu2V1IfNA2mpg6PZ0n5DA0zav6WSIA8I&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2165.22) Yeah.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=f4U-4upZJ8Aa_OGc-ULHZXsKpQraFq43Pd6xEVBXiGuIkWngX1uwxCMCpe1LFe2cw1j-_VAJV-BwR8uDoDtNPmCEuFY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2165.64) Greatly put.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=a3MrUdDQdtT0M5QnvjebpYte2WbRm8FGNJLa4HOf1FG3jWHNRrpcjtb0buC8Hs8DkE2IjQHSDpAW4N_nUZkM3Ix0wmY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2168.04) Just an observation you've made.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KC-dNP46SeuQgVquVOunheckIEu4IXyGZ5rIbxg9ewsIXizQsnv9s6UwybTudG8PfjtaxRAX77zVAwY7ZSFD6E0lN-Y&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2168.9) Greatly put. Sometimes I get my thoughts be all jumbled together, but yeah, definitely. Getting people migrating outside their neighborhood, and get others to migrate in. I think that would create a respect of culture on both ends. So as we try to attract new home owners to the area so that we can restore instead of knock down and rebuild. It's like, "Now, what happens first? Do people need to come here, and fall in love with it first? Or do the people who live here need to take a little more care and pride in their space to attract others to come in?" I don't know, it's a tricky thing. Because you got perception versus actual ... So, perception of crime here in the area versus actual crime here in the area. Southwest Baltimore may seem like perceptively it's a bad area, but numbers wise it isn't. You know, a lot of the problems or criminal activity that take place is not directly within this area. And then if you look at the root to the problem, the people who're constantly committing the crimes are ... I'm just gonna not say that part.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=yGLF4igph6Kda1ioI0-ck1km04zeiriohfCug9jMYn__Q68XtpbpSZi36IOv6aZnp96RReE52gVjbwIDzsXH3CYUyQ8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2247.31) Okay.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=C7FgUpq_xF6l7t6zH2UGZqmscrm_lwWszqgIhlOrprpie_eniczXKgrunA7Kn8d-afhuBNUSx3MxYwUwhrj5gqSEFgM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2250.67) But perception versus reality. Yeah, I feel like if we can change the perceived outlook of Baltimore, it may improve with the future engagement and development of Baltimore. History wise, we can't rewrite the history of Baltimore, I don't think that we should even try. But helping people to understand that history. My dad, he's a pastor and he pastors inside of the penitentiary. It's called "MTC," Men's Transitional Correctional Facility. So it's the first jail in America, "The first jail in the world," because America started due process. So before then you didn't have this judicial system of courts and detainment, that you have to sit in jail then you can be released. So when that building was established there's a plaque in there that has a statement of that being the first jail to be build. So him being there and learning, "Well Baltimore is really big on jails." Like the school to prison pipeline. The investment into just adult facilities has been outrageous, versus development projects or develop monies that go towards workforce development.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=V1Z26xmD5JwXIiEx_uv8mgkX6J01N9K9TdbA8QMhtJuZCz3Qanm-L1rBtF7B6oODCnPr0zuHCb5M9XdVFhl5PV9tn5I&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2338.7) And then I wonder why. It's like, people got this negative outlook, and then a lot of people feel like they don't have other options, and if it's like. This has been the first jail and people have always been bused here from other cities up and down the east coast, when these people are being released, they don't have nowhere to go. They're gonna keep doing the same things they know or don't know, and end up in the same situation. So it's like this cycle that won't end because a lot of the history that's here, but if we don't know that history you wouldn't be able to pinpoint and say, "Oh, that's new." It's not a new thing that crime is happening in Baltimore. It's not a new thing that all these jails of people from correctional facilities is constantly going in and out of the jail system. That's not new. But why? And not that it is the purpose of reason that Baltimore has a lot of criminal activity, or "A lot of criminals" because of that jail. But to me I think that speaks to some of the history of why the system is the way it is, and why so much money is put into institutions like such. Instead of other projects of school and business. It's just those barriers.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=8iGgddQ3oPvao2bS7EZ1pbdMhtJW6etuYO25rgICm1cUzFNErRXTwlF2OwlaFVVyOZUPASD49KcVuAnvEPruRQ5SucM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2412.87) And this is DC's backyard, so you would think that it would be the opposite. But if you can keep your front yard clean, and your backyard, nobody's looking at it so you don't have to really spruce it up. I think people put more attention on their front yard, where the curb appeal is needed, versus putting it into the back yard. And that's what it seems like, all the negative stuff is dumped into Baltimore, and everything else DC, or around Maryland is thriving. Because Maryland is "a rich state."

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=R4TLBTSTIYDXfKzPMa62IOOMXg-M3kE4bY1hrMhn4Nn9xD3os7nhwTFzFc407W2bLtkh2VrTu4LUhU2DEwDBP-ucAGk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2446.14) Yeah.

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=6vob0TqV4wePuEU3uwHYsBRcKNQHcakGW9SRi4A6Yh7QP_YDDEOeHURd3tbt5HpYMrLRfobR8PHRDJNfdTAqB2Ijk7M&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2447.65) Good time to change.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=p6H7_1FdsR8NDTRBdpvG413EPBRDXoCcGZDtMowKPhF4USZfQMHpkCbrwNbF6LzUXObQkN3hpLtZ8sQjs_fANJWBtH4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2449.03) Yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=2FWSTOmsO9b6yEXwnT_c3zZKAzEfktZJ8zYJQ4sUeuj_e3pqYud7rBBtoOaWT7QAENpe1CcFkMcY64nLR7PmwLvPptY&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2451.43) So earlier you mentioned that people outside of Baltimore think it's like a war zone here.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=NwKHFhygj_QxDI2HJV1P25igS1uH3lk97RDFHwJOGi5NYJn2V7avgK-jzhrGTicccMI2uEx58skIzE5S2c_Aa07teu8&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2456.71) Yeah.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gqnGn6NKDNEyUxQ5awiT90-v29RdvOJkeTKcCm5b90FKm3_Pew69vescf5xMEwR-hPgK-qv4WV6g1T0_x4x7mYEPbag&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2457.1) And then you talked about perception. So I'm wondering, you know people in Maryland and in the country in general like to speak badly about Baltimore and say bad things about it. So when you hear people say things like that, negative things, how do you feel?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9WWIddY0yBK5HW656y6QZTk7Pc379v2nxldZfCsKw2TuTPnJjuaRnUOMNngePE4lfAN7_95wooUwxG2DXexxLRGJl2M&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2471.66) I get heated. I get upset. I don't always take it personal, until ... depends. So I start to ask questions, "Have you been to Baltimore? What have you visited?" Then I invite them to public events, like I invited six people to Light City, 2017. Between 2017 and '18. And they were like, "I'm not going, I've never heard of that." It's like, "Why would I go to Inner Harbor, there was shooting there at New Years." And I'm like, "Well, they wasn't actually shooting in the harbor, but okay." So really just providing that information. I feel like you come, and you speak negative about a place because you have no experiences, and you feel like, "Well, I can speak on it." Your opinion, you have an opinion. And I'm like, "Alright, just because you have an opinion doesn't always mean you need to share it." But at the same time, before you speak bad on something about about you get a chance to experience it for yourself? Because a lot of the people who speak negative or have this negative perception, they have yet to experience Baltimore.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Wl2OGOTf3wxOn9m7bqovzlfysqGFcwz4m8eprcVtyFMt0z1oeZ4X0VtZehQNCo0Hv3p7BMrjILipM4ROrcDxLrS0VEs&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2530.9) And the more people I've met who're like transplants to the area, they like, "Man there was something about Baltimore. When I came, I fell in love." And a lot of people like, "Well, I wound up staying because you get," I wouldn't say the uncertainty, it's not the insecure part. It's the culture. Like if you're real with yourself, and you're not just trying to put up this façade and fit in, Baltimore people's kinda good at sniffing that out. So just people who happen to come and experience engaging with residents and engaging with people who live in the area. It's like, it's a loving place. You get a welcoming feel. There are many abrasive people, it is a city still. So you get a lot of short tempered individuals. But I think that's in all cities. So I just try to give them a bit of my experience living in Baltimore, 'cause everybody thinks, "Well you must've been arrested, you musta been this, you musta been that." And I'm like, "I haven't been robbed walking down Baltimore Street." You know? I haven't experienced a lot of these negative experiences that some people say you'll have had.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=SOMTsymkUsOXb37GnO1xzbBUDF0jd1JQDetN1HBucvUkxi6hZf9Pn6traHj1fqhFIccrydXA6cF_e4hkPtrah1wBDtc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2612.25) So as an advocate for my city, it's the best place in the world. I have a painting that I've done showing blighted houses, and you got the beautiful blue sky above, but it's space at the bottom. So the bottom of earth, and then you see the rest of the galaxy, 'cause it's like, "No place like home. Baltimore." So no place in the world, no place in the galaxy that I've met, that I've visited, that mimics Baltimore. Even PG County, surrounding counties, it's like Baltimore is a world within it's own. And I'm proud of that, you know? Yeah, my hometown. So for those who have negative perceptions or who have never visited Baltimore, or think it's only The Wire, I definitely challenge you to come on down, visit us, you know. Go to Highland's Market, go to Lexington Market. Don't just go to the tourist spaces, but get out there, mix with the people. Some of the best times is like, the festivals. So AFRAM, Art's Gate, Light City. These are some of the larger city festivals, so it's a great time for you to feel safe. You have a lot of other people here. But, trail outside of those tourist spaces and into some of those neighborhoods. Small pizza shops like Zella's, or pull up at Bill's Place. Get some great eats, meet some great people.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=TyLucOOKPk8axi3ijTwTWAF1qi3oAlrBf8yzabkZe5VQEbJL5iMQbyiE9RAM-xC3VK-kr_HpTXF65i-qq_cCSvwwt2s&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2702.51) So have you noticed anybody in particular making positive changes in the neighborhood?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=vi6KegFTIEQ8YXCXywftYiQ1xHJgFzdzReWSfzDZl-_P7FqN2gEPfGe-HQRM83xKb5wkauIFGfavPCqanzaajb2LgIk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2707.47) Yeah. So the gentleman I spoke on briefly, the friend of mine who was murdered, his cousin is Van Brooks. Who, growing up in this area, hearing Van's story was inspiration. For those who don't know, he was a high school athlete who was paralyzed from a head to head collision. He was a running back, slated for great things, and that ended his career. So I had a chance of watching him go through rehab and just building up his strength and building up his character. Like the stuff that he would do for kids, his heart was the community. He purchased the Hoop Farm here. He purchased a plot of vacant land just so we can start mowing it and giving the kids greens space. So like, the city did not take care of the baseball diamond field in the Poppleton area, or a lot of the vacant green spaces, so he was like, "Well."

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=B3eAQ4iJYfyE7eCiQzPeZBuuh7SVXh9h6vuvkgCbP0IB4hPQW63hvLgBqN2ryt3MqZbiMZ__9bkVpWdcgVRnmApSHHc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2766.71) This is his neighborhood, he grew up here in Poppleton, and now he owns a Safe Center, which is a youth alternative education program at Franklin Square. He's looking for other properties to help build sports camps here in the area, so football, basketball, and baseball. He's developed certain properties, housing and commercial properties in the area. He's one who I look up to because we're only about an eight year difference. So to see someone positive around the same age as me, coming from the same community, not having much but having a big heart. So it's like as a positive agent in Baltimore, I feel like there's not a lot of us from the area who's working to uplift the area, and revitalize the area. He's been a leader and a mentor in that aspect. Not being afraid to be different, 'cause you may not get the support from your neighbors, even though the beautification is for them. I've gone to some houses and residents like, "We don't want that." Or don't care, they live in their house, not in their community.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=AGQhqGz2DsDB7jtuyknZq-qXRklGnAUV7B2s7V_n1_8LMVP-3GKWaQqP8yn4ysO6JOud3ugXyOy1eRp6FopDUaf0qdA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2838.4) So for him as a resident growing up in the area, having money that you can move out of the area, but deciding to stay. So his house is still on Lexington Street, and then his business is on Lexington Street and Calhoun. And then the Hoop Farm is on Lexington and Carrollton. So it's like, you decided to stay, you decided to invest, and that's something that I wish we had more. Successful entrepreneurs, or just people who just care for their community, to do something in their community. So Van has been my biggest inspiration.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=zY5Zvq9ORYkn7IcbfOaMSySnQQzrqRLgErwkTkLgUavx2GPcbwTSfAjuPb1ETsTE_8h4AiAyZznVjabvYnRve402dFE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2873.21) So what are some of the changes you are seeing in the neighborhood, and how do you feel about them?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ZjjhT9Uyw6f4fgFV7L60xZ5szNfoTVuZsYT9l2xtIedO-RFSsjDhTWSURGkvWQyekfPYg41S4zgeEkeRWu_wqqbB654&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2879.53) Recently there have been a lot of green spaces. So when I say green spaces, it's like public lots. So for some people who don't know what green space is. So green spaces are being revitalized, being turned into little gardens, so Hoop Farms. You get tired of the blight. I know I'm tired of the blight. In 2004 when we was here, my first action of being involved and engaged in community development or community activism, my mom and us here, when we moved back to 2004, the city had planned to knock down all the houses from this east block of Carrollton, down to Amity Street. And total redevelopment. And so they started getting homeowners to sell their houses. When we first moved down here, my mom was against it, like, "One, what are you planning to do with the houses?" Because in East Baltimore you had the big Johns Hopkins revitalizing and people being displaced. And she wanted to live in her neighborhood. And if you're restoring from this block and the whole Carrollton Avenue, why would you leave one block of houses on one side of the street, and then put high-rises on this side? So like, the city and the developer plan just didn't make sense with the culture and architectural design of the neighborhood. And the displacement, they didn't have a real plan for people coming back.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ubBFB5poJ5zDP-MutB1snV3dF1-NZi-cI9mW9az5ut6I_qzE4Ir0CQSVHRuHeoCjzAUG-YCc-YZWq5VpnWITQHD9r4Y&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=2977.59) You know, so, my first action in 2004 was learning about home ownership a little bit deeper. The rights of home owners, learning about city ordinance and urban renewal plans. You know, you hear of gentrification and you hear redevelopment, or positive change, and it's like, "Well, what is it? And when does it start?" I thought people were thinking 2012 that this stuff is happening now, and I'm like, "No, the city gave them rights in 2004, and it was quiet when they started purchasing the property from home owners. So now if home owners are not here, you don't have the support for the neighborhood because the public housing, they don't have safe say-so. Renters don't have say-so." So. Just to see the strategy of the city not working with the neighborhood, but ... I think at that time ... Sorry, I think I lost the question. I'm trying to connect it back. So my story ...

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ErjSn3Bb-DKEcLD-LTfLefQNZQooyMST6WPv6RD9KpdRdAYM_O1Hwbou3USO5uwRvKHFYFMMFcxtG6fYhHff9DZmLtM&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3042.71) I think, what changes have you been seeing?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=cQDeiNoVFw43G_BZ5pkFiYhFXEmx4HagdFz61xqpjr3dclWQfhZL6AvMggz564llj9-zESHzZnddBxkHtZnpTzAxOkE&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3044.64) Okay. So that action, and the development from 2004 was stalled here in Poppleton because of funding. Roughly a couple of years later, the Bayer Park started their development on the Martin Luther King of Baltimore West eastern side of the Southwest partnership area. And it was like, "Okay, we've got vacant land, and we went from overgrown trees and overgrown vacant lots to plowed down, clear green space." And then buildings start erecting and it's like, "Where do we fit in this, as a resident and as a community member. Like, this big building is coming and are we going to be able to get employment, is this one bringing jobs? What type of building will it be? Is it going to displace other folk? Are they looking to bring this type of building up to the other end of Poppleton?" And that change proved to be positive, because then it opened up the door for other development to come and take some of the blight out. So now walking down Carrollton, I don't see boarded up houses as much because they mowed them down. So yeah, the change is good, but more I guess the understanding and knowing that change is on the way. That development is potentially still coming.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hJWTHkeTVYn697M7v8fHp9oWozSGnDnFw5bgs9UYxJQ95no2SOT0lvlCW6nZ5vg6oaL-TDJwQZ6J-Mq6KE9ofA0Hsnc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3136.34) A lot of hope has been lost, because development starts and stops, starts and stops in Southwest Baltimore. They get committed funds and then they get taken away. Interesting to see now that the mayor has stepped down if the committed funds here will stay here, or is this going to become another stalled project. Don't know. But that has happened in the past. So it's been a decade plus that a development's started, despite it being positive, it's a little ... my faith is wavering because don't know where it's going. You know, we think that it's going in a positive direction, but again if the people who was here or historically from here, where do they fit and where's their place in this new development?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=o8ujC07fSdRnLyXUxQTVCRCyYec_8F7HRHuOOBjJ3Czp_bPB1wZ1VnikD3d4UoKoOXLjwem8mZv2IQm2o7fZwd_GD-A&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3189.04) So change in West Baltimore is great, I like the new home ownership development, I like the new rentals. I think that we need a lot more rental opportunity for the millennials, because a lot of younger folk aren't looking to buy and own. Especially coming right out of college with college debt. So just being able to get that aspect of, "I have my own space," and revitalizing an area. It's not a run down area. I guess the biggest part of the change for me would just be the emptiness. I don't like it. And I know it's part of the process, because people gotta go or things die before they start to grow again, but it's quiet. And it's empty. That's not what I'm used to in the city.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=iF6leqIuUk3025bO3-9SN1AOSxxpe4D6jsEAx4PpuJXhpWWIzjoaZbHkprSp4-LLrKCGIKHz_Qr3pSyOLq69fXXQdQI&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3247.33) So we have to wrap it up. What do you want us to remember the most from our conversation today?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gnXGIOk_yiNz-eh8WGKmR6Jz88pkVNr05Kb5eEENHzgewopZAmkRWXzikUL3h5Sk8RXNfG9enywhjmUb3RIgbdK0HUc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3256.42) Remember that Southwest Baltimore was a home to ... I didn't even speak on that. Darn, it's [inaudible 00:54:26]. Remember ... alright, so to take away: Southwest Baltimore is a beautiful home for families. We call it the gem of Baltimore here, being so much history and artifacts, with the Mount Clare stab- no, nah, nah, nah, no. I'm not gonna have a politically correct answer here. So. To take away, I'd love for you to just understand that Baltimore is going through some challenges. You know, Baltimore is a great city that is extremely challenged because, I think of the history and greatness that's here. And that we don't forget ... no. Darn it, I'm trying to get my thoughts.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=KAWQqWJQwPNklt0DokcFJjaRAwm0gYSxiofQifbbUANYKOiWBgiNuM1T22hYcUUYDXphyW9td3t3EGxjFpxRn6lc6vk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3336.15) When you say "you," are we talking about the people watching, or you as a class?

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=El8ttmNoBB44Ge2c7EXC0xQTmONcf0rzTHuhvPuMDTSBie6n2JmfmWmxNHM6uHtA1Fyb0vxM0iWIETWukHg6AIXUjIw&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3343.9) Let's say the people here, in this room.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Qiq1_HNlYQC3UUA6KpfSN7GCJ2nv9VTCtSO-Ecq06yecGQx6IF-TIgEGMfAJhOQfiz83jk7Jhs76caAu4p3zvEo7e78&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3346.62) Okay. So for those listening and watching. Southwest Baltimore is a beautiful space to live, a beautiful space for families, and for you to just come and experience outside the culture of ... not middle class workers, but it has that ... I don't know. I can't even really put my finger on it, about the Sowebo. There's no place like Baltimore. Yeah. Understand that you are loved, you are in a unique space, a warm space, and we want you to stay. We want you to come back.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=FRKN4BRgIUZqSMY7EnAfD8Q4znTT3KwxqtCrPwtKp4-A21OWptvM6rV4c5p4NILQmhulhz6wpGj9h1m4XmYSW5xE9hA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3404.79) Okay, sounds good.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=S8m0rFvYFLXv2Z0acqqZrhONHz4BL1wohI51_XE2oJW7STMMSwTl7SZoIf7pcQ5LDACORP5BpqisYOJcst8lN5yLrk4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3405.95) Alright.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=3dj_a-sfFuyeIMDF5RK77-e0kAp0HR0ue_YQMHR0j3-xrSUO85ZL2-57P28Ys04W-VetIa6CHys1A5Mw-tFcX_myMds&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3406.37) Thank you.

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=XaMFFXPs7AhlxRcpvBRrnNy-aUFl1euW0ytsQnbF0Jdbmf5YYoVj9K8QJbXiTCyVAL7wyP0cE1ulrLy4eJvWQCyeIfA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3406.57) Anything else you want to add?

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ISFC88RzsrXdL3uAM-P9o-U-gwujjVfLMJyj7eztpD6Tv9IoaEFQNBGAJrFjq8LppKQN9GFM4XCvcwrnfZgZDtiLmT4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3410.25) So Sarah Ann Street. Very interesting fact or discovering fact, we're still discovering here. But Sarah Ann Street was said to be the settlement of freed slaves from the Mount Clare plantation, so this is one historical alley street, and the whole block of colorful homes. Having a chance to live near that alley street and seeing it ... I didn't understand why people lived in one bedroom houses, and didn't understand why it was being preserved. But then to learn that history gave me so much of a greater feeling to say, "Hey, I as a black African-American male here in Baltimore, am on a historic block of where freed slaves had a chance to purchase their home." It's like, home ownership where in the black community people don't think it's for them. Here, you've got the history of blacks coming to own and live in the community that wasn't theirs. So. Yeah, that was like a powerful piece for me as a takeaway. The, "You know, hey, I can own here in Baltimore. I can own here in Poppleton, and it's not historically, it's not an unknown thing. It's not something that doesn't happen. People own here, black people own here, black people live here."

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=9QGVI3lUAL-Px8H1xHi_INQ352vB2IC7XpfLYlJJFu5D58t6b4Wy5V9_vryOhzWP-r1eih_P_9onNlLE63b14WNvbEA&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3491.92) And that's something I feel like the culture should continue to understand and know. Hey, it's a melting pot. Baltimore is a very diverse space, but taking pride in your neighborhood, taking pride in your community. Understand that you have history. Understand that you have some ties and it's of value, versus ... white washed. So. That part.

[Curtis Eabby:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=e0jT-b3FqjwloMpohoh4BdMHt-PsVWRUCp4svybeTGDZ9OsJZo--Eyk9PPclCNA6fUKkZtqQ-jZPPsrcZymxWC5DYEk&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3522.99) I think that's all.

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=v2dmAsT6gRfXTyv1WGJn0yRTRN6VO-BB0q3CajAeIjNtuwZWbdKZiwh-ueDfQMd3I0lRd07A1my1PYruvZcmdc5iPG4&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3526.62) Great!

[Crew:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ksOnCtzIxf6KBaP7I0xlF-CDtAC8V34Xhir93hV2gqWMiCnSX6IDV2u4uBKSNQP9FLidiq61EMoV-M-biSOGYVn7Dwc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3526.99) That was good.

[Interviewer:](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=H7a57DSHRbOQiTl4VW47UYf4arROu2YxBvC0Xy954dizjQbDk0n7tcgAzlQqqgrCS2Yc3diflvaxV2SInX41I_iQYmc&loadFrom=DocumentSpeakerNameDeeplink&ts=3527.05) Thank you.