



Playback Your Story asks the community around Gallaudet University to reflect on and unite through their connections to community, narrative, and place. Sponsored by Van Alen and the DC Office of Planning, John Johnson conducted interviews throughout the community. The interviews culminated in a final performance done by John Johnson's theater troop, Playback Theatre on the Gallaudet Campus in 2016. The initiative weaves together the stories of locals, inspiring us to cross the street, interact with one another, and understand the roots of our community.

Pam Konde: [Working at a store that is] open 24 hours a day you run into all types of things that you wouldn't normally see.

John Johnson: How many tires do you think you change in the course of a week?

Pam Konde: Oh, a week? I can tell you during the course of the day, we can probably change anywhere from 40 to maybe 50 tires.

John Johnson: How many employees work here?

Pam Konde: We have a total of about 18 employees.

John Johnson: And where are you from?

Pam Konde: I'm from Suitland, Maryland.

John Johnson: You commute every day?

Pam Konde: I do. Unless I have to stay here overnight.

John Johnson: There are times you have to stay overnight?

Pam Konde: Well yeah, I mean duty calls. Lot of times I work the overnight hours as well.

John Johnson: Can you describe what it's like to pull into Macs Tires? What does the facility look like?

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Pam Konde: Well, we're a non-traditional tire shop, I guess not what you typically see when you think of getting your tires changed or going and getting anything done to your vehicle. You picture yourself going and speaking with someone and you drop your car off, while we're a complete, service-while-you-wait service. You pull up, our technicians come out, speak with you, figure out what your issue is. We try to get people in and out and on their way as fast as possible.

John Johnson: How many different tires do you store at this facility?

Pam Konde: Oh gosh, new tires I know we probably store about 900 to 1000 and then used tires I will say probably about 2 to 300, different sizes. Many places that you hear about or that people go to they say, "Oh you guys change all four tires, you guys change three tires." We're not going to sell you anything that you don't need and we're not going to pressure-sell you. If you come in and you say, "Well, I was told I need this." We look at it and we say, "You really have a little bit more time on these tires, you could just get these repaired today and come back in a couple of months when it's time." If you say, "No, I really want to get it done," we're not going to tell you no, but at the same point we're not going to sell you anything that you don't need.

I think that that really goes a long way for women, and to be able to see a lot of women working here. I think that that makes women feel [better]. Because most women don't know much about cars, myself included in there. You want to go somewhere where you feel like they're not going to rip you off. We're not in the business of doing that at all by any means.

John Johnson: Well how do you feel about the community? Do you feel like the community is changing rapidly? What's going on outside of Mac's Tires on Florida Avenue?

Pam Konde: It has been gradual, I will say that, but there's been a dramatic change from the time that I started. I don't think that that's all bad, I think that that's nice. I like how they're beautifying the city and this area.

John Johnson: What is the difference between almost 11 years that you say change? What changes have taken place?

Pam Konde: Demographic changes.

*This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity

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