My work surrounds the daily lifestyle of the residents of Hannibal Square. I have tried to focus on capturing these residents as they move about their community in their daily lives, engaging the viewer in not only their day to day interactions, but also in a comprehensive photo representation of the community itself. In an effort to provide a personal, relatable atmosphere within my photo set, I felt that it was important to capture stills of Hannibal Square to represent what the community looks like on any given day of the year. It was in this quest for authenticity that I discovered the abundance of children everywhere I looked.

At first, I was just capturing quick shots of kids as they passed by, but I quickly realized that the authenticity I was trying to convey through my images could be found directly through these children; they were residents after all. Several young, eager kids anxiously showed me around their neighborhood, taking me to places I would never have known to go to on my own. As I explored Hannibal Square more with them, I created more and more of a personal relationship with both the environment around me and the people passing by. It seemed that wherever I looked, everyone was always on the move. Rather than stopping them to pose for a photo, I stood from afar and silently captured the sheer essence of their existence - the direction they were going, the role they were playing in the scope of their society.

When I was initially taking my photos, I felt as if I were an outsider who was intruding on a place so sacred and dear to the residents' hearts. It wasn't until I my third or fourth trip when I started directing my focus towards the children that I realized this wasn't the case at all. Naturally, walking around alone with a camera is sure to spark some suspicion, and people will be sure to give you curious stares. But when I started walking around Hannibal Square with these children that were essentially my tour guide, I felt so much more comfortable - and as I looked around, everyone else had grown comfortable with me too. Just as I had hoped to create a personal relationship with my photos, I had developed the same type of connection with the community. That's the beauty of Hannibal Square: there are so many people and so many perspectives - each person plays a different role and follows a different path - but at the end of the day, they all come together to make up one of the most historic neighborhoods in the city.