

[00:00:46]

Childhood

> Mikaya briefly discusses her childhood growing up in Bridgeport, Ohio and her family.

****Childhood, Bridgeport, Ohio, family****

[00:05:56]

Gender and Sexuality

> Mikaya describes how she did not have a lot of role models or exposure to LGBTQ+ people growing up. She describes how going to New York City for college helped her understand her own sexuality.

****LGBTQ+, queer, childhood, adolescence, identity****

[00:10:16]

Moving to New York City

> Mikaya talks about leaving the Ohio Valley to move to New York City for college and the culture shocks she experienced.

****New York City, Brooklyn, LGBTQ+, college****

[00:15:27]

Discovering Queer Identity

> Mikaya talks about her experience discovering her queer identity and the complex emotions. She also talks about being closeted to many people, including her family.

****LGBTQ+, queer, identity, closeted, college****

[00:22:58]

Returning to the Ohio Valley

> Mikaya describes returning to the Ohio Valley after graduating college and the complicated feelings of being home, but also being closeted and missing her community in New York where she could be her authentic self. She also briefly introduces The Friendlier City Project.

****Ohio Valley, Wheeling, West Virginia, home, LGBTQ+, closeted, queer, community, The Friendlier City Project****

[00:27:42]

Description of Wheeling, West Virginia

> Mikaya describes Wheeling and all of its contradictions.

****Wheeling, West Virginia, Appalachia****

[00:31:44]

Current LGBTQ+ Visibility in Wheeling

> Mikaya describes the current state of LGBTQ+ people and communities in Wheeling. As a teacher at a high school, she describes the LGBTQ+ kids that she sees. Mikaya also talks more about The Friendlier City Project and their sticker campaign in Wheeling.

****LGBTQ+, queer, visibility, communities, Wheeling, West Virginia, The Friendlier City Project****

[00:36:07]

The Friendlier City Project

> Mikaya describes what The Friendlier City Project is and why/how it was created. She also describes how the group's existence and activities are perceived by the larger Wheeling area.

****LGBTQ+, queer, communities, Wheeling, West Virginia, The Friendlier City Project****

[00:45:38]

Pride on the Plaza and Physical Space in Wheeling

> Mikaya talks about The Friendlier City Project's event, Pride on the Plaza, and what it felt like to operate in a physical space that has often been dangerous for queer and LGBTQ+ people. She describes the move from events in "safe spaces" to more public spaces.

****LGBTQ+, queer, Wheeling, West Virginia, public space, The Friendlier City Project****

[00:55:10]

Personal Impact of The Friendlier City Project

> Mikaya describes how The Friendlier City Project changed her life and the personal impacts being a part of the project had on her personally.

****The Friendlier City Project, LGBTQ+, queer, identity****

[00:58:30]

Rosemary Ketchum Election to Wheeling City Council

> Mikaya briefly talks about the impact of Rosemary Ketchum's election to Wheeling's City Council on the visibility of LGBTQ+ communities in Wheeling. (Rosemary Ketchum was the first trans person to be elected to any elected office in West Virginia).

****Rosemary Ketchum, politics, local government, LGBTQ+, trans****

[01:01:47]

Appalachian Stereotypes Impact on LGBTQ+ Communities

> Mikaya describes how stereotypes of West Virginia or Appalachia impact LGBTQ+ communities in Wheeling.

****Appalachia, LGBTQ+, stereotypes, Wheeling, West Virginia, queer, identity****

[01:03:38]

Looking Forward

> Mikaya describes what her hopes are for the future of LGBTQ+ communities in Wheeling. She also describes what is next in her personal life.

****LGBTQ+, The Friendlier City Project, Wheeling, West Virginia, future, queer****