

The HistoryMakers at a Glance



The HistoryMakers is...

- 2,000 interviews in more than 80 U.S. cities
- National non-profit 501(c)(3) educational institution
- Educational resource
- Combination reference library, museum, video archive, video oral history stock footage collection, cultural organization and internet resource
- The largest African American oral video history archive in the world

The Purpose of The HistoryMakers is...

- To show the breadth and depth of African American history via the first person
- To highlight accomplishments of individual African Americans
- To use the archive's contents to demonstrate true examples of self-determination, persistence, accomplishment and leadership
- To preserve oral history for generations to come

The HistoryMakers' Goals are...

- To complete 5,000 interviews within the next five years
- To establish a digital database of oral video history available at educational institutions across the country

The Significance of The HistoryMakers' archive is...

- African American history extends beyond Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ella Fitzgerald
- Demonstrating that individuals can overcome adversity and go on to excel

The HistoryMakers archive can be accessed through...

- The organization's headquarters at 1900 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616
- The website, www.thehistorymakers.com, which houses the nearly 2,000 HistoryMaker interviews

The HistoryMakers have produced...

- **Pioneers in the Struggle:** The History of African Americans in the Illinois General Assembly (1877-2001), an interactive CD-Rom, documentary and curriculum guide
- **A Day of Education:** a one-day literacy/multi-media/hands-on-training program for public school teachers, librarians and students
- **Become a HistoryMaker:** a curriculum guide to be used in tandem with *The HistoryMakers'* website
- **Public Programs:** 2006 evening programs included Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration and Open House, Celebrate Chuck Smith at the Goodman Theatre, Salute to Walter Massey & Dr. Louis Sullivan by SunTrust
- **The Speakers Bureau:** features *HistoryMakers* as keynote speakers for events across the country
- **An Evening With... Program:** annual celebrity interview fundraiser; past honorees include: Harry Belafonte, Dionne Warwick, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, BB King, Della Reese, Russell Simmons, Denyce Graves, Colin Powell, Andrew Young, Nikki Giovanni, Earl Graves, Quincy Jones, Eartha Kitt and Smokey Robinson
- **The HistoryMakers Talking Truth Series:** three, one-hour-long DVDs, each containing excerpts from more than 40 *HistoryMaker* interviews

The HistoryMakers Milestones

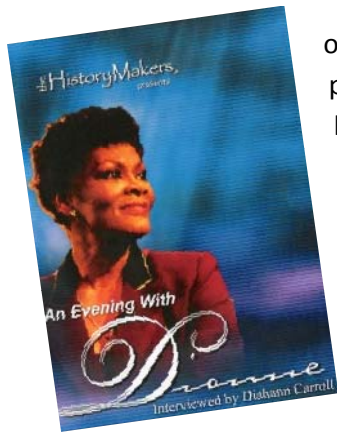
YEAR 2000



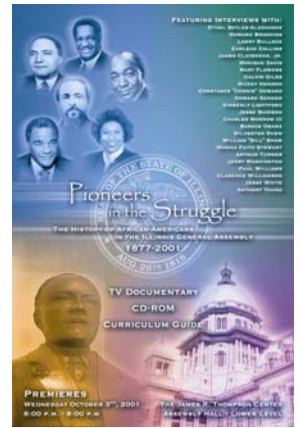
- *The HistoryMakers* radio series runs on WBBM-AM radio, reaching millions in the Chicago area.
- National launch: *An Evening with Harry Belafonte* – benefit event with live interview conducted by Danny Glover at The Art Institute of Chicago; 1000 people attended, describing the program as “riveting” and “life changing.”
- *Three Artists, Three Lives, Three Stories*. Live event at the Chicago Cultural Center. ABC-7 personality Bill Campbell moderated a discussion with artists Dawoud Bey, Richard Hunt and Allen Stringfellow; 350 attended.

YEAR 2001

- *Pioneers in the Struggle*: A Chicago Public Schools system focus group was held with 50 teachers at The Art Institute of Chicago in order to guide the creation of educational materials.
- *An Evening with Harry Belafonte*: The televised program airs nationally on the Public Broadcasting System network and the A&E Network. The televised program also premiered at the Chicago Cultural Center.



- *An Evening with Dionne Warwick* kick-off reception was held on September at Ariel Capital Management’s new headquarters; 200 people attended. *An Evening with Dionne Warwick* benefit event was held at The Field Museum with live interview conducted by Diahann Carroll; 1000 people attended.



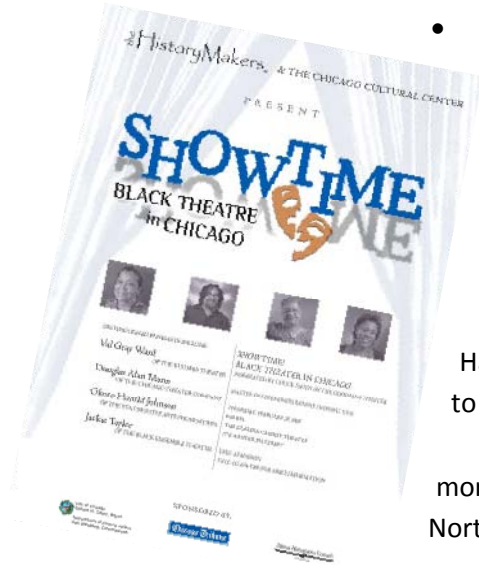
- *Pioneers in the Struggle*: TV documentary tracing the history of African Americans who have served in the Illinois General Assembly since 1877. Live premier screening at the James R. Thompson State of Illinois Building; 600 people attended.
- *Pioneers in the Struggle*: Educational video, CD-ROM and curriculum guide is completed for distribution to schools, grades 8-12.
- *Black and Red – The Little Known History of African American and American Indian Heritage*: A public discussion exploring the relationships between African Americans and American Indians, in collaboration with the DuSable Museum of African American History, the Field Museum and the Mitchell Museum; 100 people attended.

YEAR 2002

- *Pioneers in the Struggle*: Teacher training sessions held during the months of June, July and September receive strong reviews.
- *Meet the HistoryMakers – A Day of Education*: 60 *HistoryMakers* came from around the country to participate in this event. Teachers, students and librarians attended. The response was both overwhelming and positive.
- *WVON – The Good Ol’ Days of ‘60s Radio*: A panel discussion at the Chicago cultural Center with legendary personalities including Lucky Cordell, Cecil Hale, Herb Kent, Richard Pegue and Pervis Spann; 450 people attended
- *Pioneers in the Struggle*: Presentation to an assembly of 300 State of Illinois school superintendents.
- *An evening with Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee*: Held at The Art Institute of Chicago, the event was taped as a TV program to be aired nationally on PBS; 1000 people attended



- Throughout 2003, education archive use continued to rise, including visits from Robert Morris College anthropology students in January and Columbia College history students in December.
- *Meet the History Makers – A Day of Education*: HistoryMakers came from around the country to participate in this event held at the DePaul University Conference Center.
- The first *HistoryMakers National Planning Summit* convened on July 25, 2003.
- *The Boston Globe* explored the effects of *The HistoryMakers* in a story entitled “Historic Accounts: An ambitious project collects the stories of a variety of African American trailblazers” on April 14, 2003.



- Footage from *The HistoryMakers* archive was used in exhibits at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and at The Field Museum.
 - In February, Julieanna Richardson was a featured guest at Black History Month events in Florida and Boston.
 - *Showtime@ Black Theatre in Chicago* unfolded at the Chicago Cultural Center, highlighting the contributions of four Chicago theatre pioneers; 300 people attended.
 - *An Evening with B.B. King*: The famous musician is interviewed by Isaac Hayes in a gala event at The Art Institute of Chicago, taped as a television program to be aired nationally on PBS; 1000 people attended.
 - Emmy-winning television actress Lynn Whitfield entertained an attentive morning audience at an invitation-only breakfast held at the Westin Hotel River North on October 24, 2003.
 - Television producer and writer Susan Fales-Hill read excerpts of *Always Wear Joy: My Mother Bold and Beautiful* at an invitation-only book signing and reception held at the Park Hyatt Chicago on December 13, 2003.

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YEAR 2004

- PBS aired *An Evening with B.B. King* as a television special in select markets beginning in February and *An Evening with Della Reese* beginning in September.
- *The HistoryMakers* held a training summit that brought together potential interviewers, videographers and industry professionals on January 10, 2004.
- *Sounds of Experience* was presented at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of Black History Month; 300 people attended.
- *The HistoryMakers*, partnered with the Illinois Humanities Council, presented *An Evening with Jeni LeGon* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Auditorium.
- *An Evening with Della Reese*: the famous music and television personality was interviewed by Lorraine Toussaint at Georgia Public Broadcasting to launch *The HistoryMakers* Atlanta/Southeast region initiatives; 300 people attended
- *An Evening with Russell Simmons*: taped in Chicago as part of *The HistoryMakers* fifth anniversary, Simmons was interviewed by media maven Cathy Hughes, founder of Radio One and TV-One; 1000 people attended.
- *The HistoryMakers* hosted several events featuring Mrs. Christine King Ferris in honor of her children's book: *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up With Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.* in February.
- *Salutes to The HistoryMakers*: Hilton Hotels Corporation hosted three regional Salutes in Chicago, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles to honor *HistoryMakers* around the country. McDonald's Corporation was the awards sponsor.
- *The HistoryMakers* hosted its third annual *Meet the HistoryMakers – A Day of Education* at Northeastern University's Center for Inner City Studies. *HistoryMakers* from around the country came to participate in panel discussions with more than 300 students and teachers from the Chicago area.



YEAR 2005

- *Movement in Motion* is presented at Harris Bank as part of Black History Month; 300 people attended.
- *The HistoryMakers* held its first Open House on January 17 as part of the celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.
- PBS aired *An Evening with Russell Simmons* beginning in February in markets across the country.
- *An Evening with Diahann Carroll*: taped in Washington, D.C., Carroll was interviewed by journalist Gwenn Ifill; 350 people attended.
- *An Evening with Nikki Giovanni*: taped in Atlanta, GA at Georgia Public Broadcasting; Giovanni was interviewed by writer Pearl Cleage; 300 people attended.
- *An Evening with Denyce Graves*: taped in Chicago at Northwestern University's Thorne Auditorium. Graves was interviewed by actress Angela Bassett; 500 people attended.
- *The HistoryMakers* hosted its fourth annual *Meet the HistoryMakers – A day of Education* in Los Angeles. Della Reese and Earvin "Magic" Johnson served as guest speakers for the event.
- *Salute to Brock Peters*: *The HistoryMakers* held a memorial reception celebrating the life of legendary actor Brock Peters at the California African American Museum in Los Angeles. The event was sponsored by the MCI Foundation at the California African American Museum.

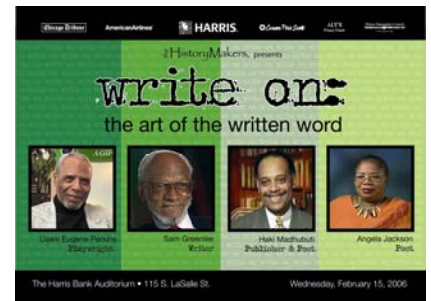




- *The HistoryMakers* held its annual Open House on January 16 and the symposium *Is the Civil Rights Era Dead?* With panelists and *HistoryMakers* Timuel Black, Judge George Leighton, James Montgomery and Hermene Hartman at Second Presbyterian Church. The discussion was moderated by Cliff Kelly of WVON.
- *The HistoryMakers*, in collaboration with Simmons Lathan, hosted a premiere screening for the *Talking Truth* documentary series in Washington, D.C. Journalist Juan Williams also interviewed Sonia Sanchez during the program.
- PBS aired *An Evening with Denyce Graves*, *An Evening with Nikki Giovanni* and *An Evening with Diahann Carroll*, beginning in February in markets across the country.
- *Celebrate Chuck Smith* was presented at the Goodman Theatre in which farmed theatre director Chuck Smith was honored and interviewed by reporter Robin Robinson.
- *The HistoryMakers* hosted its fifth annual *Meet the HistoryMakers – A Day of*

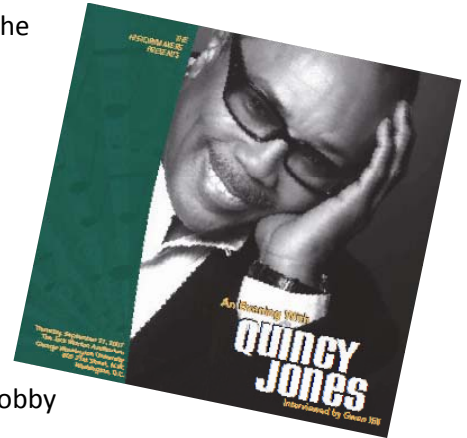
Education in Atlanta, Georgia in February. This program was followed by *A Salute to Walter Massey and Dr. Louis Sullivan* in collaboration with SunTrust Bank at the Georgia Aquarium. Both well-known educators were interviewed by former First Lady of Atlanta, Valerie Richardson Jackson.

- *Write On: The Art of the Written Word* was presented in collaboration with the Illinois Humanities Council at the Harris Bank Theater as part of Black History Month.
- *Meet the HistoryMakers – A Day of Education* was hosted in Chicago, Illinois at the Merit School of Music. More than 40 *HistoryMakers* participated in panel discussions for students and teachers.
- *An Evening with Colin Powell*: taped in Washington D.C., at George Washington University. Powell was interviewed by political commentator and author Juan Williams; 500 people attended.
- Julieanna Richardson interviewed Julian Bond at a private party hosted by Frank Ross, Howard Ross and Leslie Traub.
- *An Evening with Andrew Young*: taped in Atlanta, Georgia at Georgia Public Broadcasting. Young was interviewed by author and journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault; 400 people attended.
- *The HistoryMakers* held a screening for *An Evening with Andrew Young* at the Martin Luther King Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia.
- *An Evening with Earl Graves*: taped in Chicago, Illinois. Business mogul Earl Graves was interviewed by civil rights activist Julian Bond.



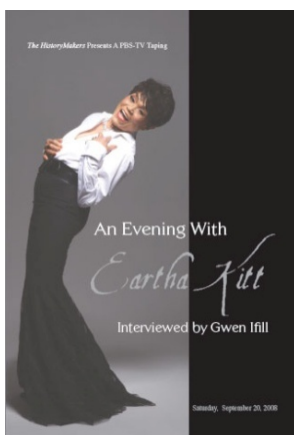
YEAR 2007

- *A Conversation to Honor African-American Leaders in the Insurance Industry*: featured five insurance industry executives (James H. Speed, Jr., Ronald D. McNeil, Ronald D. Brown, Gregory Jones and James R. Lewis). It was held at the Aon Center in the Indiana Room in Chicago, IL; 200 people attended.
- *Samuel C. Thompson, Jr.: An American Life Story* was the first annual Wayne A. McCoy Memorial Program sponsored by Schiff Hardin's Diversity Committee. Thompson shared his life story and career in the field of law. The event was held at the Metropolitan Club in the Willis Tower in Chicago, IL.
- *The University of Illinois & The HistoryMakers: Together Making History* – The University of Illinois and *The HistoryMakers* announce a three year partnership. A reception was held in the Willis Tower to announce the collaboration.
- *A Conversation with Roland Martin* was held at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus. Journalist Roland Martin spoke about the future of education in the United States and took questions from the audience.
- *An Evening with Quincy Jones*: Taped in Washington, D.C. at The George Washington University. Jones was interviewed by Gwen Ifill. Celebrity guest performers included BeBe Winans, James Ingram, Herbie Hancock, Bobby McFerrin and Lesley Gore; 350 people attended



YEAR 2008

- *An Evening with Quincy Jones* aired on PBS beginning in February in markets across the country.
- *The HistoryMakers* presented *The Power of Oral History* in Washington, D.C. to showcase the organization's digital archive; 75 guests attended.
- *The HistoryMakers* interviewed all the living National Presidents of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. for the *Sponsor-A-HistoryMaker* initiative. In exchange for the sponsorship, an interactive DVD was created to commemorate the two organizations' collaboration and to honor the AKA Sorority's 100 years of service. All the National Presidents were honored by *The HistoryMakers* at the AKA Sorority's 100th Anniversary Boulé.
- *Justice Leah Ward Sears: An American Life Story* was the second annual Wayne A. McCoy Memorial Programs sponsored by Schiff Hardin's Diversity Committee. Justice Sears shared her life story and career as a judge and Georgia Supreme Court Justice. The event was held in Atlanta, Georgia.



- Ariel Investments hosted a special "Thank You" reception for *The HistoryMakers'* past sponsors, supporters and volunteers for their continued support and/or financial contributions over the past eight years.
- *A Conversation with Sala Udin: The HistoryMakers' Oral History Interview* was held at the Oral History Association's Annual Meeting. Udin shared his life story and experiences as a civil rights worker and theatre founder. The event was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- *An Evening with Eartha Kitt*: Taped in Chicago, IL. at Northwestern University's Thorne Auditorium. Kitt was interviewed by Gwen Ifill; 300 people attended.
- *An Evening with Richard Parsons*: taped in Washington, D.C. at The George Washington University. Business executive, Parsons was interviewed by CNN's Soledad O'Brien; 350 people attended.

- *An Evening with Eartha Kitt* and *An Evening with Richard Parsons* aired on PBS beginning in February in markets across the country. *An Evening with Eartha Kitt* became the best selling DVD in the history of *The HistoryMakers'* organization. It is Kitt's final taped interview and performance.
- *The HistoryMakers* held one public program on all three University of Illinois campuses (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield) called *Agents of Change*. Emil Jones, Julian Bond and Carol Moseley Braun were



interviewed in front of a live audience on all three campuses. Jones appeared in Chicago, Bond appeared in Urbana-Champaign and Braun appeared in Springfield.

- In February, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn held a press conference at *The HistoryMakers'* headquarters and gave Julieanna Richardson and *The HistoryMakers* a proclamation saluting her and its visionary work and unyielding endurance to show the world that African American history is American history.

- In the summer, *The HistoryMakers* was awarded a \$2.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to interview more than 180 living African American scientists around the nation. A *ScienceMakers DVD Toolkit* was developed and distributed to science museums in Columbus, Ohio and St. Louis, Missouri. The DVD will be used in elementary and high school science classes in those areas.
- *The HistoryMakers'* MediaMaker category is named in honor of Herb & Sheran Wilkins in recognition of their \$1 million gift to *The HistoryMakers*.
- The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded *The HistoryMakers* a \$167,000 grant for the establishment of an in-depth Summer Institute for 25 of the nation's top high school teachers on the subject of African American political history. They will be taught by some of the nation's top scholars and be exposed to Chicago institutions rich in African American history.
- The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation awarded a \$15,000 grant to establish an interactive exhibit entitled *Agents of Change* on the street level of *The HistoryMakers'* office in Chicago's South Loop. This exhibit has already generated significant interest.
- The Field Foundation awarded *The HistoryMakers* a \$5,000 technical assistance grant to facilitate the much needed clean up of its office database.
- *The HistoryMakers* received a \$500,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. In 2010, all schools in Illinois will be able to have access to *The HistoryMakers* innovative digital video library.

