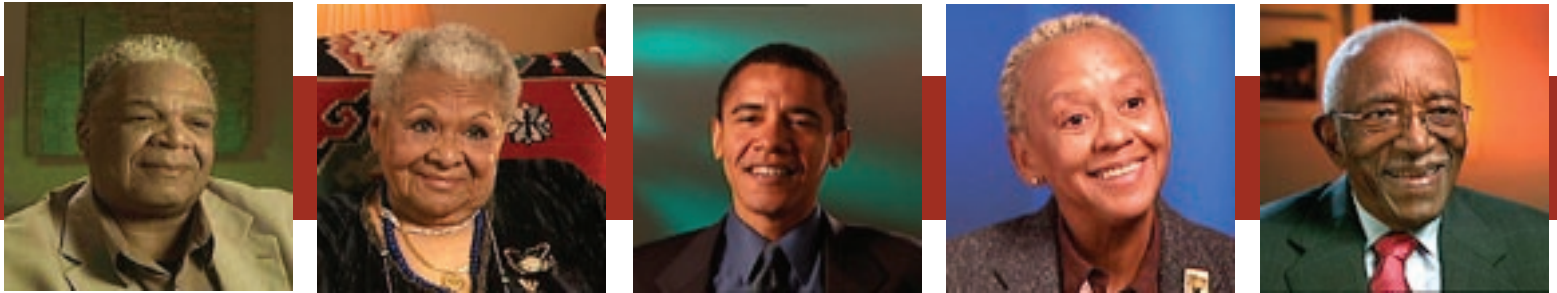


About ^{The}HistoryMakers[®]



Background

Even though African Americans have made significant contributions to American life, society, and culture, the world is still largely unaware of these contributions as well as the many personal stories of African American contributors. With relatively few exceptions, what is embraced within the historical lexicon are stories that focus on slavery, the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, music, sports, and entertainment. Even then, only a small number of African Americans have ever received the attention they deserve. Moreover, existing oral history collections consist largely of transcribed audiocassette interviews; access to them is extremely limited; and, most are ill-suited for easy transfer to today's media formats.

Organization

In July of 1999, *The HistoryMakers* was incorporated to address the above-mentioned void with the creation of an extensive digital African American video oral history archive. *The HistoryMakers'* headquarters are located in Chicago's South Loop at 1900 South Michigan Avenue, with regional offices in Atlanta and Washington D.C.

Mission Statement

The HistoryMakers is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit educational institution committed to preserving, developing, and providing easy access to an internationally recognized archival collection of thousands of African American video oral histories. The purpose of this archive is to educate and to show the breadth and depth of this neglected part of American history as told by the first person; to highlight the accomplishments of individual African Americans across a variety of disciplines; to showcase those who have played a role in African American led movements and/or organizations; and to preserve this material for years and generations to come. *The HistoryMakers* is also dedicated to making its archives available to the widest audiences possible using collaborations with various institutions, the Internet, a digital archive, and other new technologies.

Goals

The goal of *The HistoryMakers* is to develop a video oral history archive of 5,000 both celebrated and unsung African American HistoryMakers. When assembled, *The HistoryMakers* collection will represent the single largest archival project of its kind in the world.

Focus on Education

The HistoryMakers website and archives make education relative and accessible to both students, teachers, and anyone else wishing to conduct research on notable African Americans. Currently, biographies of all interviewed HistoryMakers are available on *The HistoryMakers* website (www.thehistorymakers.com). Our archives are available at our headquarters in Chicago by appointment. Eventually, all 5,000 interviews will be digitized and made accessible to colleges and universities, museums, and other educational institutions around the globe. *The HistoryMakers* also makes educational outreach a priority *The HistoryMakers Education Institute*, *Meet the HistoryMakers: A Day of Education*, and *The HistoryMakers Speakers Bureau*.

Archival Process

The HistoryMakers has completed almost 2,000 interviews nationwide. Each interview is approximately three hours in length and costs \$2,500 to \$5,000 to produce. This includes the cost of background research, videotaping, editing, transcribing, encoding, digitizing, archiving, and disseminating the information. Until the digital archive is assembled, users can sample archival holdings via *The HistoryMakers* test digital archive. Here, the interviewed HistoryMakers are grouped thematically; each HistoryMaker is featured with a biography and an archive of photographs. The website also contains a timeline, glossary, and a tool for users to nominate the individuals to be interviewed. *The HistoryMakers'* full archives are available at our headquarters in Chicago by appointment.

Active Partnerships

The HistoryMakers has formed academic partnerships with the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, Columbia College, Carnegie Mellon University, and Howard University; community partnerships with the National Underground Freedom Center, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Chicago Art Institute, the DuSable Museum, the Field Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Broadcast Communications, Chicago Public Schools, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and the Links; media partnerships with PBS, AT&T Broadband, the A&E Network, the Word Network, and WBBM-AM, the Chicago CBS radio affiliate; technology partnerships with Inmedia and IBM.

Funding

It is crucial that *The HistoryMakers* meet its fundraising goal. Thus far, *The HistoryMakers* has raised more than \$10 million through multiple fund raising activities including special events such as An Evening With...programs with Quincy Jones, Harry Belafonte, Colin Powell, Dionne Warwick, B.B. King, Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee, Earl Graves, Russell Simmons, Denyce Graves, Della Reese, Diahann Carroll, Andrew Young, Nikki Giovanni, Eartha Kitt and Richard Parsons; government funding from the State of Illinois and the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and foundation funding from The Knight Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, McCormick Tribune Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities among others.

The HistoryMakers®

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