

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paul McDonald

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | McDonald, Paul, 1949- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Paul McDonald, |
| Dates: | April 19, 2007 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2007 |
| Physical Description: | 4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:57:19). |
| Abstract: | Technology entrepreneur and technology executive Paul McDonald (1949 -) founded a series of companies aimed at researching infrastructure and systems development, including Creative Systems Business Development Foundation and The Pilot Business Corporation. McDonald was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 19, 2007, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2007_151 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Technology entrepreneur and technology executive Paul Gregory McDonald was born on February 23, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois to Josephine McDonald and Frederick Douglas McDonald, an evangelical minister. McDonald grew up in Chicago, down the street from his mentor, Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, Ernie Banks. McDonald attended Hirsch High School in Chicago, where he was heavily involved in Operation Breadbasket and became the business manager for the Young Pushers, an offshoot of Jesse Jackson's Operation Push organization.

In 1967, McDonald graduated from Hirsch High School and was drafted by the Chicago Cubs. However, his baseball career was interrupted when he was drafted by the United States military. McDonald served in the Vietnam War as a television cameraman, flying over the country filming the terrain. Although he did not attend college, McDonald took management courses with Xerox, IBM, Minolta and Fidelity Union Life Insurance. With this experience, McDonald founded a series of companies aimed at researching infrastructure and systems development, including Creative Systems Business Development Foundation, The Pilot Business Corporation, Global Business Development Architects, Common Communications Commission, the Cooperative Sports Incubator and CyberPark, U.S.A. McDonald also led a partnership with downtown Los Angeles' community development agencies in order to foster business development in the area. In 1991, McDonald founded Global Business Incubation, Inc. (GBI), and became its Chief Research Officer. The company was started as a joint venture with Loyola Marymount University to connect California businesses with technology and manufacturing opportunities. As Chief Research Officer, McDonald oversaw technology and multi-media infrastructure development. In 1993, GBI and Loyola Marymount joined the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences in creating an Advanced Manufacturing Science and Technology Center.

McDonald is also responsible for the Lou Myers Scenario Motion Picture Institute Theater, which helped 100 inner city youth apprentices in the building of a film studio. In 2000, McDonald received the White House Millennium

Council Award for encouraging business development in Los Angeles.

Paul McDonald was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 19, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Paul McDonald was conducted by Paul Brock on April 19, 2007, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Technology entrepreneur and technology executive Paul McDonald (1949 -) founded a series of companies aimed at researching infrastructure and systems development, including Creative Systems Business Development Foundation and The Pilot Business Corporation.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

McDonald, Paul, 1949-

Brock, Paul (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McDonald, Paul, 1949- --Interviews

African American entrepreneurs

African American executives

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Technology Entrepreneur

Technology Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Paul McDonald, April 19, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Paul McDonald, Section A2007_151_001_001, TRT: 0:29:11 ?

Paul McDonald was born on February 23, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois to Josephine Harper McDonald and Frederick McDonald, Sr. His maternal grandmother, Rosa Harper, was born into slavery, and his maternal grandfather, Russell Harper, was a half-white community politician and activist in Alabama. He occasionally passed for white to uncover racial discrimination, which he reported in his newspaper. After McDonald's parents married, they lived in Rockford, Illinois for a time, before moving to Chicago. McDonald was the youngest of his parents' fourteen children, and did not know his older siblings well. His eldest brother, Frederick McDonald, Jr., owned a funeral home in Illinois, and was shot and killed in 1948. Another of his brothers, Ellis McDonald, graduated valedictorian from Chicago's Roosevelt University. As a child, McDonald attended the funeral of Emmett Till, which was held at the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago in 1955.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

Racially mixed people--America.

Till, Emmett, 1941-1955--Death and burial.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul McDonald, Section A2007_151_001_002, TRT: 0:28:46 ?

Paul McDonald was raised in a middle class African American neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois. There, he attended Emmett Till's funeral in 1955. After hearing the minister speak at the funeral, McDonald decided that he wanted to pursue ministry himself. At six years old, he spoke in front of his church; and, after seeing the congregation's emotional reaction to his words, decided that he no longer wanted to be a minister. At ten years old, McDonald met baseball player Ernie Banks, and visited Wrigley Field, where he met Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's restaurants. In Chicago, McDonald attended Arthur Dixon Elementary School and Hirsch High School, but rarely completed his assignments. Instead, his sister finished his homework, while McDonald himself received personalized instruction from his father, evangelist and police officer Frederick McDonald, Sr. From this curriculum, McDonald and his father set out to create their own educational institution, the Common Communications Commission.

Till, Emmett, 1941-1955--Death and burial.

African American churches.

Banks, Ernie, 1931-.

Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs.

African American fathers.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul McDonald, Section A2007_151_001_003, TRT: 0:29:33 ?

Paul McDonald and his father, Frederick McDonald, Sr., decided to found a college institution to provide quality higher education to people of color. For two years, McDonald and his father designed courses for the school, which they named the Common Communications Commission. While a student there, McDonald also served as the vice president, and recruited new members. Although he initiated a partnership with the International Business Machines Corporation, the school was never formalized. Then, McDonald obtained a position as a music promoter through Eddie Thomas, the founder of Curtom Records. McDonald went on to create a business model to help minorities

develop institutional ownership, which he used to found Global Business Incubation, Inc. in partnership with businessman George Kozmetsky and San Diego State University in San Diego, California. At the time of the interview, Global Business Incubation, Inc. was in its initial stages, with plans to expand to major cities across the United States.

African American fathers.

African American universities and colleges.

Thomas, Eddie, musician.

Wealth--Moral and ethical aspects--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Paul McDonald, Section A2007_151_001_004, TRT: 0:29:49 ?

Paul McDonald's business, Global Business Incubation, Inc., aimed to bring African Americans and other people of color into Corporate America by pooling the costs of business in one large incubator. He based his business model on the infrastructure of successful corporations like Burger King. The business was founded with help from the San Diego State University Research Foundation and the Minority Business Development Center, and McDonald later partnered with Pastor Beverly Allen and the Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, California, as well as several universities in California. His wife, Tonia McDonald, served as the company's president. McDonald describes his plans for the future of Global Business Incubation, Inc., as well as how he would like to be remembered. He concludes the interview by reflecting upon his meetings with civil rights leaders Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and their influence upon his life and career.

Thomas, Eddie, musician.

African Americans--United States.

Economics--United States.

African Americans--Economic conditions.