

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nancy Lane

PERSON

Lane, Nancy L., 1944-

**Alternative Names:** Nancy Lane;

**Life Dates:** September 3, 1933-March 28, 2022

**Place of Birth:** Alexandria, Virginia, USA

**Residence:** New York, NY

**Work:** New York, NY

**Occupations:** Corporate Executive

## Biographical Note

Corporate executive Nancy Lane was born on September 9, 1933, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Gladys Lane and Samuel Lane. She received her B.S. degree in public relations and journalism from Boston University in 1962, and went on to earn her M.P.A. degree at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1975, Lane completed the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School in Boston.

Lane began her career at the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company. She then worked as a project manager for the National Urban League, where she developed the Black Executive Exchange Program. From 1972 to 1973, Lane was the second vice president and head of executive recruitment at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. She became the vice president of personnel at New York Off-Track Betting Corporation in 1973, before joining the administration department at the Johnson & Johnson Products corporate headquarters in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1975. The following year, Lane was named vice president of human resources and administration, making her the first woman to assume the role. She also served on the board of directors of Ortho Diagnostic Systems, a division of Johnson & Johnson. She was the first female vice president, and first African American, to sit on Johnson & Johnson's management board. Lane served as vice president of government affairs at Johnson & Johnson's corporate headquarters until her retirement in 2000.

Lane held several board positions, including on the board of governors at Rutgers University, the National Board of Directors for the NAACP. She also served as the lead NGO representative at the United Nations. She also served on the board of Bloomfield

College, the board of trustees for Freedom House, the board of directors for the SEED Foundation, and the board of the Studio Museum in Harlem. She was as an advisor for The International Review of African American Art, as well as a co-chair of the Stieglitz Society at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In 1987, Lane received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University, which is the highest honor bestowed upon an alumnus.

Nancy Lane was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 28, 2016.

Lane passed away on March 28, 2022, at the age of 88.

## Related Entries

**Boston University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs**

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.P.A.**

**Harvard Business School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Roxbury Memorial High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Henry Lee Higginson Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**North American Representative of the International Union of Students** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to ?]

**Assistant**

**National Urban League, Westinghouse Broadcasting Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to 1966]

**Program Manager**

**National Urban League** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1967 to 1972]

**Deputy Personnel Director**

**Chase Manhattan Bank** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to 1973]

**Second Vice President**

**New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1973 to ?]

## **Vice President**

**Johnson & Johnson** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1975 to 1976]

## **Administrator**

**Johnson & Johnson** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1987 to 2000]

## **Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Studio Museum in Harlem** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1973 to 1975]

## **Board of Directors**

**Studio Museum in Harlem** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1975 to ?]

## **Board of Trustees**

**Board of Governors for Rutgers University** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1995 to ?]

## **Member**

**NAACP** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1999 to ?]

## **Board Member**

**The SEED Foundation** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2011 to ?]

## **Board of Directors Member**