

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nancy Lane

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Lane, Nancy L., 1944-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 28, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:29:14).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate executive Nancy Lane (1933 - 2022) worked for Johnson & Johnson Products for over twenty-five years, and also served on the boards of Rutgers University, Bloomfield College, the NAACP and the Studio Museum in Harlem. Lane was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 28, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_041
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

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.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nancy Lane was conducted by Harriette Cole on October 28, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive Nancy Lane (1933 - 2022) worked for Johnson & Johnson Products for over twenty-five years, and also served on the boards of Rutgers University, Bloomfield College, the NAACP and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

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# 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®.

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# 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.

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# Controlled Access Terms

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

## Persons:

Lane, Nancy L., 1944-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lane, Nancy L., 1944---Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Corporate Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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## 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 Nancy Lane, October 28, 2016. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane, Section A2016\_041\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:55 ?  
Nancy Lane was born in 1944 in Boston, Massachusetts to Gladys Lane and Samuel Lane. Her maternal ancestors were enslaved in Virginia during the 1860s. Following emancipation, they moved to Boston, where Lane's mother

was later born. Lane's father grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, and attended law school in Boston. He met Lane's mother at a social event hosted by the noted sociologist Marguerite Cartwright, and they settled in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. Lane grew up in Boston, where her family belonged to the St. Mark Congregational Church. She also participated in activities at the Boston Public Library, where she later worked under librarian Fanny Goldstein. Lane attended Henry L. Higginson Elementary School and Roxbury Memorial High School. While enrolled at Boston University, she received a scholarship to study at the University of Oslo in Norway. During her travels, she was invited to dinner with Ambassador Clifford R. Wharton, Sr. and his wife, Harriette Banks Wharton.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane, Section A2016\_041\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:20 ?

Nancy Lane attended Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts from 1958 to 1962. During this period, she also studied abroad at the University of Oslo in Norway. Upon graduating, she traveled to Austria through the Experiment in International Living program. Lane went on to work as a teaching fellow at Boston University, and then as an employee relations specialist at a sportswear company in Boston, before joining an educational organization based in the Netherlands. After returning to the United States, she was hired by George Norford at the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, which funded her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Then, through a business connection, Lane became a project manager at the National Urban League. She created the organization's Black Executive Exchange Program, which provided mentors for students at historically black colleges. Around this time, Lane moved to Greenwich Village in New York City.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane, Section A2016\_041\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:48 ?

Nancy Lane worked as a project manager at the National Urban League, where she developed the Black Executive Exchange Program during the 1960s. In 1972, she was hired as an executive and M.B.A. recruiter at Chase Manhattan Bank, and went on to serve as the company's first African American female officer. Around this time, she developed her interest in art and art collecting, and was nominated to the board of the Studio Museum in Harlem by its director, Ed Spriggs. Hoping to further her career as a human resources executive, Lane left Chase Manhattan Bank and accepted a management position at the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation. In 1975, she received financial help from her mother, Gladys Lane, to attend the executive training program at Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts. At this point in the interview, Lane talks about the mission of the Studio Museum in Harlem, which helped launch the careers of artists like Elizabeth Catlett.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane, Section A2016\_041\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:54 ?

Nancy Lane became the first female vice president at Johnson and Johnson Products in 1975. Around this time, she joined the board of the Studio Museum in Harlem in New York City. Over the next four decades, the museum helped propel the careers of numerous African American artists, including Elizabeth Catlett, Carrie Mae Weems and Mark Bradford. After the departure of Ed Spriggs in 1977, Mary Schmidt Campbell was named director of the museum. Eleven years later, Kinshasha Holman Conwill assumed the directorship. She was followed by Lowery Stokes Sims in 2000. In 2005, Thelma Golden became the museum's director and chief curator. Under her leadership, the museum expanded its catalog and programming, and increased its annual revenue through the exclusive Studio Museum in Harlem Gala event, which rivaled New York

City's Costume Institute Benefit. As a board member, Lane was responsible for recruiting other members, and helped acquire the works of artists like Kehinde Wiley.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane, Section A2016\_041\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:17 ?

Nancy Lane became the first female vice president at Johnson and Johnson Products in 1975. Over the course of her twenty-five career, she worked to promote the company's career development and minority scholarship programs. At this point in the interview, Lane talks about the handling of the Chicago Tylenol murders by CEO James E. Burke. In addition to her long term board service at the Studio Museum in Harlem, Lane served on the boards of numerous universities, including Bennett College in North Carolina and Rutgers University in New Jersey. She was also active in the Harvard Business School Club of Greater New York, and helped establish an endowed professorship at Harvard Business School in memory of African American businessman H. Naylor Fitzhugh. Upon retiring in 2000, Lane enrolled in the art history graduate program at Christie's Education in New York City. She reflects upon her life, legacy and plans for the future, and shares her advice to African American youth.

Video Oral History Interview with Nancy Lane, Section A2016\_041\_Lane\_Nancy\_06\_MED\_001, TRT: