

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ellenae Fairhurst

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Fairhurst, Ellenae, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst,
Dates:	August 14, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:27:34).
Abstract:	Automobile sales entrepreneur Ellenae Fairhurst (1943 -) was the first African American female owner of a Lexus car dealership. Fairhurst was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 14, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_148
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Automobile sales entrepreneur Ellenae Fairhurst was born on January 6, 1943 in Dayton, Ohio to Jack J. Hart Sr. and Ellen Nora Hart. Fairhurst graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Dayton, Ohio in 1961. She earned her B.S. degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1965, and her M.A. degree in social and consumer psychology from the University of Detroit in 1973.

Fairhurst worked as a secretary for Motown Records and for the law firm of Goodman, Eden, & Robb, before she was hired in 1968 as a secretary at the Ford Motor Company. Fairhurst remained at Ford for seventeen years, where she served as a marketing research analyst and was promoted to project manager. She left her position in 1986, and joined the Chrysler Corporation, retail dealer development program. After two years with Chrysler, Fairhurst was named president and general manager of the Cumberland Chrysler-Plymouth dealership in Fayetteville, North Carolina. In 1992, she sold her shares in the Chrysler-Plymouth dealership and purchased a Dodge dealership in Huntsville, Alabama. Fairhurst then purchased a Nissan Infiniti dealership in 1999 and became the first African American female in North America to own an Infiniti dealership. The same year, she became the first African American female owner of a Lexus dealership, which was located in Huntsville, Alabama.

Fairhurst's success as an automotive dealership owner was widely recognized. In 2001, Fairhurst's "autoplex" was ranked at ninety-five on *Black Enterprise* magazine's "Auto Dealer 100" list. The following year, the company was ranked at number fifty-six on the list. By 2013, the "autoplex" was moved to fifty-four on the "Auto Dealer 100" list. Fairhurst has been also awarded the Daimler-Chrysler Five Star Award, and Elite of Lexus Status for most years she's been in operation.

Fairhurst served on the board of directors for the Chrysler Minority Dealers Association, the Huntsville Downtown Rescue Mission, and the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. Fairhurst is also a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association and the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers.

Ellenae Fairhurst was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 14, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ellenae Fairhurst was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 14, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Automobile sales entrepreneur Ellenae Fairhurst (1943 -) was the first African American female owner of a Lexus car dealership.

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:

Fairhurst, Ellenae, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Fairhurst, Ellenae, 1943- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Automobile Sales Entrepreneur

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 Ellenae Fairhurst, August 14, 2017. 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 Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_001, TRT: 1:28:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_002, TRT: 2:30:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_003, TRT: 3:28:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_004, TRT: 4:32:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_005, TRT: 5:29:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_006, TRT: 6:32:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ellenae Fairhurst, Section A2017_148_001_007, TRT: 7:26:09 ?