

The HistoryMakers Renews Its Commitment To Celebrate Black Contributions During Black History Month

Though Black Americans have made endless contributions to American life, society and culture, the world is still largely unaware of these significant contributions.

And this Black History Month, The HistoryMakers, headquartered in Chicago, is determined more than ever to change this.

Julieanna L. Richardson, founder of The HistoryMakers, says, "As we celebrate Black History



Julieanna Richardson

Month, The HistoryMakers want to provide living proof that Black history did not begin or end with the Civil Rights Movement. We want the world to recognize that there are thousands of Black history makers, many of whom are still living today. During Black History Month, we need to realize there are many heroes we should know about besides the well-known heroes, such as Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. DuBois and Ella Fitzgerald."

This month, the organization has recommitted itself to its goal to complete 5,000 interviews of well-known and unsung Black American history makers within the next five years.

The HistoryMakers is a national, non-profit educational institution committed

to preserving, developing and providing easy access to an archival collection of thousands of Black American video oral histories. The HistoryMakers is a video

oral history archive come alive, making it accessible to the public through its Web site, digital archive and special public events.

The organization defines a HistoryMaker as a Black American who by his/her accomplishments has made significant strides and who is associated with a particular movement, organization or association and event or time that is important to the Black community.

The HistoryMakers recently announced plans to honor show business pioneer Diahann Carroll on May 7 in Washington, D.C.

The Black history group has also launched The HistoryMakers Education Institute in Atlanta, in which today's Black history makers will visit public schools and urge students to strive for excellence and to realize the importance of their rich history.

Past internationally-recognized HistoryMakers include Dionne Warwick, B.B. King, Della Reese, Russell Simmons and legendary husband-and-wife acting team Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.