What Is *The HistoryMakers*?

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

- ENGAGE a Myriad of Audiences, Old and Young Alike
- EDUCATE the Larger Community
- INCREASE Knowledge and Understanding
- IMPACT and ACTIVATE Social Change
- ENHANCE the Cultural Equity of the African American Community
Public Humanities, Digital Humanities & Oral History

Roberto Busa

Digital Humanities

Allan Nevins

Public Humanities & Oral History
Before *The HistoryMakers*, important history was hidden from view.

The only large-scale attempt to document the black experience since the WPA Slave Narratives.
Goals & Accomplishments

CREATE an archival collection of 5,000 African American video oral histories.

EXPOSE the collection to the widest audience possible using new media outlets, public events, educational programs and a unique digital archive.

PRESERVE this collection for generations to come to construct a more inclusive and accurate record of American history.

DONATE this collection to a nationally recognized archive due to long term preservation costs.
A HistoryMaker is an African American by descent who:

1) has made significant accomplishments in his or her own life; and/or
2) is associated with a particular movement, organization or association and event or time that is important to the African American community.

The HistoryMakers’ stories are ones of success against the odds, achievement in the face of adversity, and in all cases, stories of inspiration. They are America’s Missing Stories.
Time is constantly moving forward, and we are losing important history and stories every day.

Gwen Ifill (1955-2016)
Managing editor, Washington Week & PBS NewsHour

Charles Ogletree
Civil rights lawyer, Harvard Law School professor

Lani Guinier
First African American female tenured Harvard Law School professor

Necessary. Important. Urgent.
Rich & Diverse Content

Foodways
Film & Filmmakers
Black Arts Movement
Funeral Rites
Public Health & Medical Workers
Makings of Modern Music
Poetry
Entrepreneurs
Black Radical Tradition
Sports
LGBTQ
Shifts in Beauty Culture
Migration & the Black Diaspora
Black Feminism
Theology & Religious Life
Sciences
Black Towns & Land Ownership
African Survivals
Integration & Public Life
### Missing Links – Age & Gender

#### HistoryMakers Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
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<td>71-80</td>
<td>818</td>
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<tr>
<td>81-90</td>
<td>425</td>
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<tr>
<td>91-100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>614</td>
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</table>

#### HistoryMakers by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1145</td>
</tr>
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By The Numbers…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1700s</th>
<th>The earliest recollection in the Collection</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>413</td>
<td>Cities and towns where interviews have been conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Age of the youngest HistoryMaker at the time of her interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Full-length video interviews in <em>The HistoryMakers</em> Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Age of the oldest HistoryMaker at the time of her interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140,000+</td>
<td>Stories currently available on <em>The HistoryMakers Digital Archive</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Hours of primary source material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Countries using <em>The HistoryMakers Digital Archive</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Missing Links – Subject Category

15 Subject Categories

- Maya Angelou (ARTMAKER)
- Lonnie Bunch (EDUCATIONMAKER)
- Charles Blow (MEDIAMAKER)
- Quincy Jones (MUSICMAKER)
- Katherine Johnson (SCIENCEMAKER)
- John H. Johnson (BUSINESSMAKER)
- Eartha Kitt (ENTERTAINMENTMAKER)
- Louis Sullivan (MEDICALMAKER)
- President Barack Obama (POLITICALMAKER)
- Oscar Robertson (SPORTSMAKER)
- Harry Belafonte (CIVICMAKER)
- Sherrilyn Ifill (LAWMAKER)
- Gen. Colin Powell (MILITARYMAKER)
- Rev. Calvin O. Butts (RELIGIONMAKER)
- Daymond John (STYLEMAKER)

Interviews per Category:

- EducationMakers: 640
- CivicMakers: 503
- BusinessMakers: 480
- MediaMakers: 418
- ArtMakers: 296
- LawMakers: 284
- PoliticalMakers: 269
- MusicMakers: 242
- ScienceMakers: 218
- MedicalMakers: 142
- ReligionMakers: 129
- EntertainmentMakers: 109
- MilitaryMakers: 86
- SportsMakers: 82
- StyleMakers: 53
By 2020, all 50 states will be blue!
“We received a reference question about the correct pronunciation of two old department stores in Harlem for an audio book recording. The Assistant Chief Librarian in my division used HistoryMakers to get the answer. Amazing! It's the only resource that could have answered the question.”

-Maira Liriano, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

It means that our generation will never be lost, that the history of our generation will never be lost…I’m honored to be part of the archive.

-Henry Louis “Skip” Gates, Jr., Harvard University
Arkansas
Arkansas State University
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

California
Stanford University

Colorado
United States Air Force Academy

Connecticut
Yale University

Georgia
Emory University
Savannah State University

Illinois
Dominican University
Northwestern University
University of Chicago
University of Illinois, Chicago

Iowa
University of Iowa

Kentucky
Eastern Kentucky University

Maryland
Morgan State University

Massachusetts
Boston University
Brandeis University
Harvard University
Lesley University
Northeastern University
Simmons College
Smith College
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston

Michigan
Michigan State University

Minnesota
Carleton College

Missouri
Southeast Missouri State University
Washington University in St. Louis

New Jersey
Princeton University
Rutgers University

New York
Columbia University
Cornell University
New York University

North Carolina
Duke University
Johnson C. Smith University

Ohio
Case Western Reserve University
Ohio State University

Oregon
University of Oregon

Pennsylvania
Carnegie Mellon University
University of Pennsylvania

Texas
Texas Southern University

Virginia
The College of William and Mary
University of Richmond
University of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University

Washington, D.C.
American University
Howard University

Wisconsin
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Public Libraries
Chicago Public Library
Cleveland Public Library
Forsyth County Public Library
Milwaukee Public Library
Salt Lake County Library
Schomburg Center (NYPL)

Private School
Latin School of Chicago
Teaching Vocabulary in Context

- Course made up of 10-12th grade African American male students, focused on closing the achievement gap
- Used President Obama’s road to the White House as a framework to explore concepts like:
  - African American Identity
  - Politics
  - Agenda
  - Political Machine
Remote Access for All Cardholders & Chicago History Fair

- All cardholders receive remote access to *The HistoryMakers* Digital Archive

- Four 7th grade students of Whitney M. Young's Academic Center used information and excerpted transcripts from the Digital Archive
  - Placed 6th overall nationwide for their exhibit “Redlined,” exploring redlining and the Contract Buyers League
Soul, Funk, and Civil Rights

- Look at the lives, music, and oral histories of music greats like Berry Gordy, Martha Reeves and Valerie Simpson

- Objectives:
  - Discuss evolution of gender roles in black community and its effects on music and artistic production
  - Examine the politics of black popular culture in the 1960s and 1970s
  - Explore the enduring legacy of important events of this time period on racial consciousness development and cultural creativity

Janie Ward
Simmons College
Classical Theater and the Modern City

First-year seminar course where students:

• Read both classical plays from Greece and Rome as well as modern theater classics;
• Explore the distinctions between text and stage, thinking about issues of race, class, and gender as experienced by characters in the time they were living in.

Students will watch interviews of HistoryMakers like:

• **Lloyd Richards** – director of the original Broadway production of *A Raisin in the Sun*
• **Billie Allen** – actress who appeared in *A Raisin in the Sun* and the original production of *Blues for Mister Charlie*

“Having access to HistoryMakers enhances how I can deliver instruction in drama and performance, while also teaching my students about research and library resources.”
Reverend Addie Wyatt: Faith and the Fight for Labor, Gender, and Racial Equality

- *The HistoryMakers* provides a rich, detailed account of the meaning of Wyatt’s life from her perspective

- Filled gaps in Wyatt’s biography and supported existing knowledge
  - Childhood in Mississippi & Chicago
  - Aftermath of her mother’s death
  - Activist networks