The HistoryMakers 2023 Annual Report

Our Institution

Since its inception, The HistoryMakers, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Chicago, has grown to become the digital repository for the black experience. With education as its mission and the Library of Congress as its official repository, this one-of-a-kind collection provides an unprecedented and irreplaceable physical and online record of African American lives, accomplishments, and contributions through unique first-person testimony. Over the past twenty-three years, over 3,600 video oral history interviews (12,000 hours) have been recorded in 451 cities and towns, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Europe across a variety of disciplines. Contained within the collection are the stories of Alonzo Petrie, the oldest living black cowboy, statesman General Colin Powell, and poet Nikki Giovanni and Sonia Sanchez. Also included are 211 of the nation’s top scientists such as Katherine Johnson, who was featured in the Hollywood movie Hidden Figures; civic leaders C.T. Vivian and Marion Wright Edelman, music icons Berry Gordy and Quincy Jones; business leaders former Amex CEO Ken Chenault, former Merck CEO Ken Frazier, and former Xerox CEO Ursula Burns; lawyers former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and NAACP Legal Defense Fund president Sherrilyn Ifill; political leaders Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the late Congressman John Lewis, and President Barack Obama (when he was an Illinois State Senator), as well as New York Times columnist Charles Blow, artist Theaster Gates, museum director Thelma Golden, restaurateur Marcus Samuelsson, and entrepreneur Daymond John. The HistoryMakers website, accessed by millions worldwide, is cited in Wikipedia as well as numerous articles and used as a “go-to” reference tool. To date, The HistoryMakers Digital Archive has been licensed by 205 colleges, universities (Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Howard, Spelman, Morehouse, Ohio State, University of Oregon, etc.), K-12 schools, public libraries (Boston, Chicago, New York, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Charlotte, etc.) corporations, and museums for use by faculty, students, staff, and patrons. This has been particularly relevant in the post-COVID era with a heightened focus on online learning and the attacks on the teaching of black history. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive now and well into the future will provide a more complete understanding of who we are as Americans, where we have come from, and where we are going as a nation.

3,600 Oral History Interviews

12,000 Hours of Video

451 Cities and Towns

205 Colleges, Universities, K-12 Schools, Public Libraries, & Museums

150,000+ Stories Available on The HistoryMakers Digital Archive

51 Countries with Registered Users of The HistoryMakers Digital Archive

President’s Message

Greetings!

In 2023, we scaled up our interviews to pre-pandemic levels. With the support of American Airlines, Boeing, Ursula Burns, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, and McCormick Foundation, our crews travelled to 35 U.S. cities and towns interviewing 189 HistoryMakers. They included singer Dionne Warwick, fashion model Beverly Johnson, costume designer Ruth Carter, photographer Ike Ude, museum curator Lowery Stokes Sims, gospel singer Shirley Caesar, Hollywood producers Doug McHenry, Charles D. King and Jesse Collins, the 14th Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, ALA Presidents Tracie D. Hall and Robert Wedgeworth, poet laureate Tracy K. Smith, ABC-TV President Kimberly Godwin, college presidents Michael V. Drake, Dr. Paula Johnson, Jonathan Scott Holloway and Dwight McBride, U.S. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Harvard Business School professors James Cash and Linda Hill, politicians and lawyers Lori Lightfoot and Karen Freeman-Wilson and historian and author Adele Logan Alexander, among others. 2023 also saw the passing of 36 of our HistoryMakers that included long-time supporter and music mogul Clarence B. Avant, archivist Charles Blockson, civic leader and oldest sister to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Christine King Farris, hair care founder Edward Gardner, law school professor Charles Ogletree, singer Capri, Williams Pinkney and Hollywood actor Richard Roundtree. Essentially, a death at The HistoryMakers no longer represents the “burning of a library,” but the “saving of a legacy of a people.”

This year, we also expanded our Higher Education Advisory Committee meeting to include our student ambassadors, launched exciting partnerships and unveiled our groundbreaking Digital Library featuring the digitized collections of entertainer Eartha Kitt, fashion commentator Audrey Smaltz, literary agent Marie Brown, art gallery founder Isabel Neal, Johnson Products Founder George Johnson, soprano Etta Moten Barnett and her husband Claude Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press. We also increased the amount raised for our $20 million campaign to $16.2 million. This is due, in part, to an increase in individual contributions as well as grants from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation ($500,000), the MacArthur Foundation ($500,000) and the Gund Foundation ($200,000). Increases in general operating support is critically important now for The HistoryMakers to build its staff and technical infrastructure. Each videorecorded oral history interview averages $60,000 in costs to research, record, digitize, transcribe and process an interview. Our goal is to raise the remaining $3.8 million needed. This is now more important than ever before as noted by this mother: “As a single Caucasian mother of a black daughter in the 1980s, I struggled to help her see herself represented in this world. She was not taught much black history in school and at that time there was not much representation of her as it pertained to toys, TV, movies, etc. I am so happy for the young children to have this library of their history. I am also happy to have it for myself and the other adults who hunger for this type of information. Thank you for bringing your passion to fruition for the benefit of all Americans.”

Preservation of the African American documentary record is critically important at this time in our nation’s history. We are committed to preserving 20th century African American history with 21st century solutions so that present and future generations will be educated properly about the contributions of African Americans. Sincerely,

Julieanna L. Richardson
Founder & President

2023 proved to be a transformative year. It was the year that CBS 60 Minutes featured The HistoryMakers not only once but twice, catapulting our work to a national stage.

Julieanna L. Richardson
The HistoryMakers National Board of Trustees

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Founder & President
The HistoryMakers

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the community

The HistoryMakers Capital Campaign

To date, $16.2 million has been raised, including $1 million gifts from Baldwin Richardson Foods/Eric G. Johnson, The Boeing Company, Ursula Burns, Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, Andrea W. and Kenneth C. Frazier, and Lincoln Financial Group. Successful completion of The HistoryMakers 20@2020 capital campaign will allow The HistoryMakers to significantly increase its holdings to also include modern day African American leaders to its collection, and to become the digital repository for the Black experience. For this national treasure, with an impressive track record of accomplishment, the need is urgent as many 20th century contributors pass away or memories fade, thereby risking the loss of important history.

The $20 million raised is being invested as follows:

- Additional interviews added to The HistoryMakers archives based on historical importance, region, age, gender, and careers ($11 million: 1,800 interviews x $6,000);
- Development and implementation of short- and long-term technology strategies and plans developed with the tech community ($4 million);
- Increasing public awareness of the archive and user engagement ($3 million); and
- Hiring and retaining additional staff and maintenance of infrastructure critical to the support of current and future operations ($2 million).

The HistoryMakers will continue its work of saving and preserving important and missing pieces of our nation’s history. The HistoryMakers also serves as a model for other marginalized voices, providing a proven pathway for them to bring their own histories out of the darkness into the light.

“We recently completed an “employee challenge” and close to 200 employees visited The HistoryMakers website to gain exposure and familiarize themselves with the resource. Meeting our challenge triggered a $6,000 donation to The HistoryMakers.”

Deborah Kroeger
Senior Director, Talent Acquisition, Arvinas

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The HistoryMakers Capital Campaign

$1,000,000 Grant Award

The HistoryMakers & Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice

On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, in a crowded room of attendees, at the WomanMakers Relaunch Luncheon and Convening at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, Ford Foundation President Darren Walker announced a $1,000,000 gift for The HistoryMakers Digitization Initiative. The personal collections of former Xerox CEO Ursula Burns and legendary entertainer Eartha Kitt will be digitized as part of this initiative.

The HistoryMakers Capital Campaign

$500,000 Grant Award

Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation


On June 15, 2023, Zhu Sun, The HistoryMakers’ Chief of Staff and Marilyn Dunn, a member of The HistoryMakers Digitization Advisory Committee and former Director of Harvard University’s Schlesinger Library travelled to Long Island for a luncheon in honor of The HistoryMakers and other grant awardees of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. The award was presented to The HistoryMakers by the Foundation’s Executive Director Kathryn Curran. The HistoryMakers was awarded $500,000 to digitize the personal collections of 20 New York-based HistoryMakers during the years of 2024-2026. These collections will be made accessible on The HistoryMakers Digital Library.

Gardiner’s Island: A Rich History

Approximately five square miles in size, Gardiner’s Island, a part of the town of East Hampton, has a rich, tumultuous history that spans nearly 400 years of ownership by the same family. It is the only real estate intact in the United States that is part of an original royal grant from the English Crown. The Island has survived Indian wars, pirates, invasion by British forces, war, and family issues. It is home to more than 1,000 acres of old growth forest, the largest stand of white oak trees in the Northeast, 1,000 acres of meadows, rare birds, Indian artifacts, and structures that date back to the 17th century.

Robert David Lion Gardiner, the last heir to bear the name Gardiner, said of his founding ancestors survey of the Island, “When he walked over it he found it had magnificent forests, saltwater ponds and fresh streams that he could dam and use for his livestock.” The island was settled in 1639 by a man named Lion Gardiner after he retained a grant from King Charles I of England.
The HistoryMakers Capital Campaign

$380,000 Grant Award

The HistoryMakers & Toyota Motor North America
Together, The HistoryMakers and Toyota Motor North America have partnered to champion mobility through access to opportunities. This partnership provides a one-year subscription to The HistoryMakers Digital Archive for the Dallas Public Library. It also provides a one-year subscription for The HistoryMakers Digital Archive for seven historically Black Colleges and Universities, including Bowie State University, Lincoln University, Mississippi Valley State University, Wiley College, Dillard University, Grambling State University, and Johnson C. Smith University. The gift supports a student ambassador at each institution who will champion the use of The HistoryMakers Digital Archive on their respective campus. After a two year absence due to the COVID19 pandemic, Toyota came aboard to sponsor The HistoryMakers return to Martha’s Vineyard for Martha’s Vineyard’s Juneteenth weekend. Featured were the re-airing of the movie Amistad, the honoring of Captain Bill Pinkney who sailed solo twice around the world through the dangerous Cape Horn, a post reception at an actual shipyard and the interviewing of 16 HistoryMakers that included the following Toyota executive Tellis Bethel and Toyota owner/operator dealers: Edward Anthony Brownlee, Irving Matthews, and Faith Mba.

The HistoryMakers Capital Campaign

$200,000 Grant Award

The Gund Foundation awards $11.5 million at its November meeting

The George Gund Foundation awarded $11.5 million at its November board meeting, led by significant investments in nonprofit democracy building efforts across the state. These investments totaled $2.5 million to nine organizations: Greater Cleveland Congregations, Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association, Krocums Foundation, Ohio Debate Commission, Ohio Organizing Collaborative, Ohio Progressive Collaborative Education Fund, Ohio Voice, Ohio Women’s Alliance, and the Tides Foundation. These investments reflect our belief that a multicultural, power-balanced community is essential to build and sustain a more representative democracy.

I am pleased to inform you that the Trustees of The George Gund Foundation have approved a two-year grant of $200,000 to The HistoryMakers for Cleveland/Northeast Ohio African American Leaders in The HistoryMakers Collection.

Anthony Richardson
President, The George Gund Foundation
2023 brought significant national attention to The HistoryMakers with the airing by CBS 60 Minutes of an in-depth feature on The HistoryMakers. The feature aired first on Sunday, February 19, 2023 and then again on Sunday, July 23, 2023. CBS correspondent Bill Whitaker, producer Marc Lieberman and associate producer Cassidy McDonald did an excellent job of taking viewers behind the scenes at The HistoryMakers to see first hand its work of preserving the first person stories of African American leaders while educating the world about the African American experience. Thousands of people responded from across the United States. Featured here are a few of the responses that were received.

“I am a member of Jack and Jill of America Inc. We are the oldest African American family organization who started in 1938 in Philadelphia. I would love to speak with someone on how to incorporate one of your programs into our national curriculum.”
Detra Hunt
Richmond, Virginia Chapter, Jack and Jill

“I have been meeting with my students individually over the past few days so that they can talk to me about their final paper topics for my course African American Lives in the Law. The students are finding the digital archive very helpful for their research, as I have often told you. They thank me for all the discoveries not only for my class but for their research in their other classes. However, in my student meeting just now, I had a unique experience that I thought you would like. My student Brianna Turner thanked me for introducing her to The HistoryMakers for a reason separate from her research paper. She thanked me because she found her grandmother Karen Hill Scott in the archive. Brianna shared her grandmother’s clips with her parents who also watched the interview. Thus, there are genealogical and other family history benefits to the archive!”
Evelyn Higginbotham
Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

“At a time when we’re having a national discussion about how Black history fits into the American mosaic, we discovered that many stories of Black achievement are slipping away, going unpreserved for future generations. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization called The HistoryMakers is hoping to change that, by creating an expansive digital archive of first-person accounts. Founder Julieanna Richardson told us she’s determined to document the Black experience in America, one story at a time.”
Bill Whitaker
Correspondent, 60 Minutes
Media

60 Minutes

“I just wanted to be one of the many sending my congratulations on the excellent 60 Minutes piece! Here’s hoping it leads to all kinds of wonderful things for you and the organization! Hope all is well on all fronts, and keep up on keeping on!!”

Dave Isay
Founder, StoryCorps

“With governors, senators, representatives, and the Supreme Court taking us back to Jim Crow days, we must stay vigilant. I think 60 Minutes needs to air that segment every quarter of the year. Your upbeat positive responses enlightens the stagnant minds of many black, white, brown, yellow, and red people. Thanks again and keep up the good work!”

Carlotta Walls LaNier
Youngest of the Little Rock Nine

“The 60 Minutes piece on you and the mission of The HistoryMakers was absolutely luminous. Congratulations. You’ll receive lots more praise, but none sooner – or more genuine and enthusiastic -- than this. More to come.”

Adele Logan Alexander
Author and Historian

Roderic I. Pettigrew
CEO, EnHealth and Executive Dean, EnMed at Texas A&M University

“Bravo Zulu Julieanna! What a contribution to the world you have made.”

“We just watched (for the second time) the 60 Minutes episode about you and your inspiring organization. I am a now 75-year-old, white, former taxi driver/owner from Portland, Oregon. In the very early 2000s, I was at my usual taxi stand at the Heathman Hotel. I was hailed by the doorman, pulled around the corner and saw standing next to her luggage, Maya Angelou. I put her luggage into the trunk of my cab. She said, ’Good morning sir, I’m going to the airport.’ A minute or so later, she said, ’Sir, are you married?’ I replied, ’Yes, nearly 20 years (at that time).’ Ms Angelou asked, ’Would your wife like to have these flowers? They’ll be very difficult to travel on an airplane with.’ I replied, ’Oh, goodness, yes. Thank you.’”

Anonymous
The HistoryMakers 2023 Annual Report

Congratulations on your 60 Minutes segment last night. Obviously, you are a star. But the importance of the signal regarding black history being all around us shined through, as well. Thank you!

Juan Williams
Political Analyst, Fox News

Amazing, heartfelt, cogent, brilliant and, yes, history-making! How great to finally see you on the other side of the interview table and I hope your own personal HistoryMakers interview is in that archive as well.

Naomi Beckwith
Curator, The Guggenheim

Julieanna, you were both radiantly beautiful and pitch-perfect in your delivery.

Carrie Mae Weems
Visual Artist / Photographer

“An awesome interview!! So important in this day and age when some folks wish we did not exist and are doing their best to make our history disappear!! Great job, Julieanna! Great job!!”

Kathleen and Merald “Bubba” Knight
Bubba Knight is a member of Gladys Knight and the Pips

“Julieanna, your words tonight were so powerful and, as you know, we all need to fiercely fight to keep our history on the record...and never erased! So so proud of you!”

Ingrid Saunders Jones
Former Chair, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW)
Former SVP, The Coca Cola Company and Chair, The Coca-Cola Foundation

Although I saw it during its first airing, it seemed that I was seeing it anew this evening. Julieanna, your messaging about the program was excellent and timely. The re-airing was done at a critical time during what’s happening in Florida and other states today. I am honored that I quickly captured your vision five years ago to provide some support. I hope there are many others who will do likewise after the program tonight. Congratulations again!

Deborah Brittain
Past President /Chairman, Association of Junior Leagues International & Former EVP, Preod Corporation

60 Minutes: Julieanna at her desk in the early days of The HistoryMakers
60 Minutes: Bill Whitaker touring The HistoryMakers archives
60 Minutes: Bill Whitaker and Julieanna Richardson watching The HistoryMakers interview of Illinois State Senator Barack Obama
As you know, we have been on this journey with you for over 20 years and have seen your vision, dedication and your resolve implemented and executed. We have seen up close how difficult your journey has been and how tenacious you have been following your North Star. Your honoring thousands of our heroes and sheroes will stand as long as America is a Republic, one of our proudest moments is to be inducted into The HistoryMakers over twenty years ago. Congratulations to you and your staff on what you have built and sustained over the past 20 plus years.

Bernard & Shirley Kinsey
Founders, The Kinsey Collection

We watched with my nephew and were quite literally cheering at the TV, cheering and applauding you and your vision. You were more than ready for your moment in the spotlight. Shine on!!!!! I hope this leads to even more bountiful things for The HistoryMakers.

Michele Norris-Johnson
NPR Journalist

Proud to have been interviewed for The HistoryMakers archive and deeply grateful for the resource in writing my books on Black History.

Mark Whitaker
Journalist and Former Editor, Newsweek Magazine

“Thank you for your support in this project and permission to use excerpts from these interviews conducted by The HistoryMakers. Although I have been aware of The HistoryMakers since I started work at the Library, it was only when I started investigating the website for the presentation that I truly understood the importance of the project and the detail and care that was applied to each video history. The scale and range of the people interviewed by the project is remarkable. For example, I know of Marion Barry as the mayor of Washington, DC, and that he had a civil rights background. His interview communicated his charm and the determination that got him through so many reversals. And his testimony of how segregation was practiced in Memphis during his youth was both matter of fact and chilling to me as a modern viewer. The presentation of the histories on the website with the treatment of the interviews with careful segmentation, summaries, transcripts and metadata makes them so instantly findable and valuable to the researcher.”

David Pierce
Assistant Chief, Library of Congress National Audio-Visual Conservation Center – Packard Campus

“Congratulations! How moving it was to witness you share your journey and marvel at the impact. Indeed, you have helped reverse the experience for nine-year-old girls! That touched me. Thank you for all you’ve done and all you will do!”

Denise Gardner
Philanthropist & Board Chair, The Art Institute of Chicago

“I just finished watching the wonderful interview with you on 60 Minutes. It was a special moment when you placed your interviews in the context of the Slave Narratives at the Library of Congress. Like you I had no Black history in the Newark High School which is why your Dad helped me get permission from the School Board to do several guest lectures in Black history every week at Newark High School in the American history classes during my senior year at Denison University. It was great to briefly see the picture of him and you together and I know he would be very proud of what you have accomplished!”

Charles P. Henry
Professor Emeritus of African American Studies, University of California, Berkeley
“I was profoundly moved watching the 60 Minutes interview with Ms. Richardson. As a white woman her age, how different my life and all our lives would have been if the experiences of African Americans would have been honored all along. The curriculum mentioned in the interview should be made a part in every classroom and every grade, as those who have deemed the history we have been taught is full and complete were in grievous error. The United States would be unspeakably different were it not for the sacrifice of African Americans. Thank you so very, very much for your lifetime of service to others, to us all.”

Denise Fearn

“My grandsons are mixed race young men - high school & middle school. I saw the segment on 60 Minutes. How can I get my boys involved?”

Kim Emery

“I had the privilege of meeting and coordinating with you in 2006 when you interviewed then Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute President Shirley Ann Jackson for The HistoryMakers. At the time, I was amazed by your project, vision, and passion. What you have created/accomplished is incredible, but not surprising, given what I remember was your pleasant, persistent, determined determination. Thank you for what you have done for our country.”

Theresa Bourgeois

Founder, Esperance Consulting

“FANTASTIC!!!!!! There is practically nothing more important...and the way your idea has flourished, just incredible. It’s beyond vital that a people know their history, their identity, shoulders to stand on, to be proud of, to grow and learn from. “Generation to generation” l’dor va dor...absolutely vital XOXO (especially more than ever in today’s USA where the outrageous and dangerous attempt to destroy truth and a people is rampant). BRAVA!!! to your brilliant idea, vision, perseverance and great heart...healing and making our world a better place.”

Susie Shapiro

“l am 100% German even with a hispanic surname. l am 61 years old. l was absolutely enraged when the movie came out about the African American women who worked as mathematicians for NASA and the space program. l felt so CHEATED by the public education system and what was CHOSEN to be taught in the curriculum. l grew up only seeing Sanford & Son, Good Times and the Jefferson’s. Mainly my understanding of the black community was poor people in subsidized housing (projects). We had moved out of the city when l was 10. We were a ‘poor’ family in a very wealthy school system. In my four years, there was only one African American student and l don’t recall her being there for an entire year. l can’t even begin to tell you how ENRAGED l am that black history (such as it is) is now being excluded by school systems. Thank you for all you are doing.”

Sheila M Flores

“What a wonderful and well deserved segment on 60 Minutes. It was such a complete and inspirational piece. You truly deserve this renowned recognition for all you have done, all you are doing and all you will do to preserve our stories, our life and our history. You truly exemplify what and who a HistoryMaker is! Bravo, Bravo.”

Brenda Lauderback

Board Chair, Denny’s

“I’m in tears! So, so good! I hope this generates more support and awareness for The HistoryMakers. Great piece! Bravo!”

Michelle T. Boone

President & CEO, The Poetry Foundation
"Your interview was magnificent. It was obviously deeply felt, motivating and technically perfect. Congratulations! It will certainly generate a big boost for The HistoryMakers."

Dr. Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, AGAF
Executive Director, Association for Academic Minority Physicians

"Congratulations on the wonderful HistoryMakers’ story and your legacy! May you continue your exceptional vision for expansion of the digitial library! Stay well!"

Dr. Jeanne Sinkford, DDS., PhD.
Professor and Dean Emerita, Howard University, College of Dentistry

"I just wanted to let you know how awesome I thought you were in your very poised, professional, and passionate comments. Well done!!"

Brigadier General Leo A. Brooks

"It was especially inspiring to see you in front of the camera for once. Bravo!!"

Teresa Clarke
Founder, Africa.com / Chair of Smithsonian Museum of African Art

"I watched 60 Minutes with great pride and adoration. Thanks for making our peoples’ valuable life stories visible. Your vision and dedication is a blessing to us all."

Jacqueline Bradley
Investment Banker and Philanthropist

"You just reached out through the TV tonight and captured my mind and soul. I had no idea of the riches you have shown us. I can’t wait to engage with The HistoryMakers. Thank you from my heart, for this gift. You are a national treasure, and you are a HistoryMaker yourself. (Full disclosure: I am a 74-year-old woman of German/Dutch/English heritage.)"

Anonymous

"I was mesmerized and so proud of you. I KNOW how long you’ve labored and am delighted for you to enjoy these and all the “fruits” to come. Get ready for all that lies ahead. Cheers and much love!"

Eva Chess
Chief Marketing Officer, PPC

"I commend you for your research and interest in digitizing Black History in America. It is beautiful that you are preserving a history that too little is known about."

John William Vornholt

60 Minutes: Ford Foundation President Darren Walker announcing The HistoryMakers $1 million Grant award

60 Minutes: Eartha Kitt’s Papers

60 Minutes: Reverend Billy Kyles at assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

60 Minutes: Rescued Billy Styles at assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
“You have done a great service with this repository. I applaud you and your staff for moving forward with a site dedicated to achievement and patriotism, among other things.”

Jerome Mapp

“I’m 75, a second-generation Polish/Ukrainian Caucasian. I’m sick and tired of all the hatred in this country. “We the People” is supposed to mean ALL the people. Take care and keep up the good work.”

Al Przybyla

“To see your story on the same day I heard about my state’s Governor signing a bill allowing the “benefit” of slavery to be taught in school is beyond dichotomy. I hope that your life’s work will open eyes and minds and somehow hasten the end of racism in our country. Thank you for all you do.”

Stefanie Beck

“You’re an important and needed service. We need you to continue. Many thanks.”

Theresa Schaeffe

“I’m a privileged older white male. Where would I start to read and learn and immerse in black history? I’m thankful you exist.”

Nathan Laskey

“I just watched your interview which aired on tonight’s 60 Minutes show and I wanted to applaud your efforts in ensuring that the rich history of trailblazing Black Americans is adequately documented and shared with the masses. Without your work these stories may have been lost for generations and having a firsthand account from these notable individuals is truly priceless!”

“This interview brought me to tears and I cannot wait to start listening to the archived interviews. No need to worry about a legacy. You have secured it for all of us. Thank you!”

Adriana Seawright

“I cried! I thought of all those hours back in that room editing. It was all so worth it.”

Casandra Voloshin

Freelance Editor, The HistoryMakers
Higher Education Advisory Committee Meeting
February 5-6, 2023

The HistoryMakers convened its Sixth Annual Higher Education Advisory Board Meeting at the UVA Darden Sands Family Grounds in Arlington, Virginia. Over 65 advisory board members, staff, and guests from 40 colleges and universities were in attendance. The advisory board meeting began with a welcome from The HistoryMakers Founder & President Juliana Richardson, University of Virginia’s John Unsworth, Dean of Libraries and Michael Gerard Mason, Dean of African-American Affairs, Harvard University’s Victor S. Thomas, Professor of History and Evelyn Higginbotham, African and African American Studies. Carnegie Mellon University’s Michael Christel presented about their work on The HistoryMakers Digital Archive. Attendees represented over 10 different disciplines, including African/a & African American Studies, Public Affairs, Biological and Medical Sciences, History, Race & Ethnic Studies, Social Sciences, Education, Business & Entrepreneurship, English, Political Science, Journalism, Legal Studies, and Psychology, among others. Each advisory board member came prepared with reports on how they successfully integrated The HistoryMakers Digital Archive into their curriculum. Also, in attendance were The HistoryMakers Student Ambassadors from Dillard University, Grambling University, Howard University, Prairie View A&M University, Tuskegee University and Wellesley College as well as K-12 Matteson District 162 Dr. Blondean Davis and Yvonne Williams, Chief Special Education Officer. Everyone left energized and excited to implement the new ideas shared and the new ideas generated.

NFL & The HistoryMakers’ Virtual Program
February 24, 2023

The HistoryMakers hosted Behind the Scenes with The HistoryMakers and the NFL and NFL Films. This invite-only session featured NFL General Counsel Jeff Pash, The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr. of Covington and Burling, who serves as one of the outside counsel for the National Football League. Participants learned about the unique partnership between the NFL, NFL Films and The HistoryMakers. In addition, NFL Films has donated to The HistoryMakers hundreds of hours of footage from interviews with Pro Football Hall of Fame players. They are also donating their production services to provide for the addition of 125 African-American football players into The HistoryMakers archives, which are housed permanently at the Library of Congress.

Participants Included:
Alva Adams-Mason
Deborah Brittain
Toni Cook Bush
Kamau Coar
Johnnetta Cole
Cecilia Conrad
John W. Daniels
Earnest Ellison
Billy Glanze
Allison Green
Robert Hatchett
Eric G. Johnson
Gerry Johnson
Theo Killison
Brenda Lauderback
Michele Coleman Mayes
Ronald McNeil
Luis Montero
Paula Price
Dmitri Stockton
Troy Vincent
Julieanna Richardson travelled to Lewiston, Maine where she received an Honorary Doctorate from Bates College along with Shankar Vedantam, founder and host of the popular science podcast series Hidden Brain, Michael Lewis, award winning nonfiction writer of Moneyball, The Big Short and Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon about Sam Bankman Fried and ornithologist and naturalist J. Drew Lanham who also served as the commencement speaker for Bates College 2023 commencement.

In joint celebration of Black History Month and Women’s History Month, Trinidadian poet and Africana studies professor Liseli Fitzpatrick invited Julieanna Richardson to Wellesley College to give Wellesley College’s MLK lecture on the theme of When Lions Tell Their Stories. Wellesley College president Dr. Paula Johnson was in attendance and was interviewed by Julieanna Richardson for The HistoryMakers archives. During the two day stay, Richardon met with Africana Studies faculty and students, gave an oral history training session at the Harambee House and met with Claff Library staff and archival staff. The visit also featured the work of Izy Torkonoo, ’23 (2022-2023), The HistoryMakers Student Ambassador.

“We work frequently with teachers and students from community schools and other universities…. A digitization project would definitely be an exciting opportunity.”

Thai Jones
Herbert H. Lehman Curator for
American History Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Columbia University
The HistoryMakers at Martha’s Vineyard
June 11-22, 2023

For the first time in the history of our doing interviews and programs on Martha’s Vineyard, The HistoryMakers held its programs on Martha’s Vineyard during the Juneteenth holiday and Father’s Day. Toyota was the title sponsor and HistoryMakers attended from across the United States. The festivities began on Friday, June 16, 2023 with the re-airing of the Amistad feature film at the Martha’s Vineyard Film Center. Then HistoryMaker Captain Bill Pinkney, who travelled from Puerto Rico, was featured in the program Free as the Wind: Maritime Escape from Slavery. Captain Pinkney made history when he sailed solo around the world via Cape Horn. He also served as the First Captain of the ship Amistad, which was docked for three days in Vineyard Haven and Edgartown for tours. Captain Pinkney was interviewed by Martha’s Vineyard Time’s columnist Skip Finley about his time at sea as well as about the history of African Americans who found freedom on the high seas.

During The HistoryMakers time on Martha’s Vineyard, Board Chair Toni Cook Bush hosted a dinner for the staff and the executives of Toyota.

American Library Association Breakfast and Exhibition
June 23-26, 2023

The American Library Association hosted its annual conference in Chicago and The HistoryMakers hosted a breakfast for its subscribing institutions. In attendance were Chicago Public Library Commission Chris Brown, Governors State University president Cheryl Green and the former director of libraries for the University of Arkansas as well as library staff from American University, Chicago State University, Duke University, Morgan State University, Tufts University, University of Alabama. Also, The HistoryMakers hosted its own booth where hundreds learned more about The HistoryMakers Digital Archive.
Programs and Presentations

The HistoryMakers Summer Education Institute
July 10-14, 2023

Thanks to The HistoryMakers Board member and Jenner & Block’s Managing Partner Randy Mehrberg, The HistoryMakers held its week long Summer Education Institute both for its Faculty Fellows and its K-12 teachers. Faculty and teachers travelled from across the United States to learn how to center their curriculum at both the university and K-12 levels around use of The HistoryMakers Digital Archive in the classroom. The HistoryMakers thanked the event team at Jenner & Block, volunteer coordinator Phyllis Bay, Director of Education Dr. Barbara Radner, Sharon Brown, Erondu Hait and Master Faculty Fellows Lizel Fitzpatrick, Anastasia Bailey and Steven Keener for travelling to Chicago to help facilitate the success of The HistoryMakers 2023 Summer Education Institute.

National Conference of State Legislatures
August 14-15, 2023

Julieanna Richardson travelled to Indianapolis at the invitation of Gene Rose, Chief Communications Officer for the National Conference of State Legislators to speak on the theme of The Lost Stories: The Lessons of Preserving Black History. She spoke to a standing room only crowd and then again the next day, she spoke to the National Conference of Black State Legislators about her work on Pioneers in The Struggle: The History of African Americans in the Illinois General Assembly (1877-2001) - the video oral history, curriculum and documentary project that The HistoryMakers spearheaded in 2001 to trace the history of African Americans in the Illinois General Assembly.

Programs and Presentations

A Conversation with Ruth J. Simmons and Julieanna Richardson
September 12, 2023

The HistoryMakers’ Julieanna Richardson and Alexander Paterson travelled on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 to Prairie View A&M University to interview former Prairie View University president Ruth J. Simmons about her memoir, Up Home: One Girl’s Journey. The memoir details Dr. Simmons’ extraordinary life, from her humble beginnings as the daughter of sharecroppers in East Texas to her historic appointment as the first African American president of an Ivy League University. Hosting The HistoryMakers was Professor and Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Emerita Emma Josephine Thomas-Smith who also scheduled a personalized tour of Prairie View’s campus along with meeting with faculty and library staff. The HistoryMakers Student Ambassador Delicia Drain also participated in the program.

The African American Episcopal Historical Collection’s 20th Anniversary Symposium
October 11, 2023

At the invitation of HistoryMaker Riley Temple, The HistoryMakers’ Julieanna Richardson gave the virtual keynote address for the African American Episcopal Historical Collection (AAEHC) 20th Anniversary Symposium. Toni Cook Bush attended and spoke on behalf of The HistoryMakers. Riley is AAEHC’s Collection Growth Specialist and is responsible for preserving the Episcopal Church’s African American collections.
Fulbright Association
October 20, 2023
Julieanna Richardson travelled to Denver, Colorado to serve as the keynote speaker for the 46th Anniversary Fulbright Conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference theme was Our Responsibility for a Better World. Thanks goes out to HistoryMaker and Fulbright Chairwoman Justice Cynthia Baldwin, Fulbright President John Bader and Fulbright’s Director of National Events Alicia Montague who allowed The HistoryMakers exposure to the Fulbright Association community of leaders.

MilitaryMakers – Black Veterans Program, Sponsored by Boeing
October 27, 2023
With Bernice “Bea” Billups of Boeing, The HistoryMakers partnered with Eli Williamson and Emanuel Johnson of Leave No Veteran Behind. Local veterans and political officials attended. The MilitaryMakers book that traces the heritage of the history of African Americans in U.S. military from the 1600s to the present was distributed to everyone in attendance.

The HistoryMakers at Yale University’s Trumbull College
November 7, 2023
Yale University’s Fahmeed Hyder, Head of Trumbull College and his wife, Anita Sharif-Hyder invited Julieanna Richardson to speak at Trumbull College, one of Yale’s fourteen residential colleges.

This was the first time since 2015 that The HistoryMakers had visited Yale. Richardson also met with several faculty while she was on campus as well as Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Larry Gladney and professors Robert Stepno and Stephen Carter and University Librarian Barbara Rockenbach. She also presented before the Yale’s African American Affinity Group as well as Yale’s Afro Am House. Timeica E. Bethel-Macaire did an excellent job of interviewing her in front of a group of 60 students.

Trumbull’s Senior Administrative Assistant Renee McCloud and Trumbull’s Assistant Director of Operations Deborah Bellmore facilitated Richardson’s visit to Yale.
It’s a tremendous responsibility to conduct these [oral history] interviews because these are people’s life stories and most of the time it is the only recording like this that they have.
It’s been a profound experience to spend time with people whose stories comprise The HistoryMakers’ collection. A lifetime of memories flow from over a thousand interview sessions over the past two decades and no brief recollection can adequately acknowledge the hospitality, kindness, and inspiration that’s been extended to me by so many.

SCOTT STEARNS
VIDEOGRAPHER

1,682 INTERVIEWS RECORDED

MATTHEW HICKEY
VIDEOGRAPHER

1,879 INTERVIEWS RECORDED

My job at The HistoryMakers is as important as ever. African American history is actively being suppressed to this day. My job is a privilege and imperative.

My job at The HistoryMakers is as important as ever. African American history is actively being suppressed to this day. My job is a privilege and imperative.
November 2022 - December 2023 Interviews By Category

ArtMakers
Randy McShepard
Scott M. Mills
Myrtle Potter
Paula A. Price
Guy Primus
Vikki Pryor
James E. Royal
Michael Russell
Anthony Samuels
Rev. Hilton O. Smith
Bonita Stewart
Tracey Travis
Lisa W. Wardell
Erick Williams
Ernest Wooden, Jr.
Margaret Young

BusinessMakers
Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr.
Tellis Bethel
Frederick H. Black
Sylvia Sloan Black
Johnnie Booker
Sharon Y. Bowen
Robert J. Brown
Edward Anthony Brownlee
James L. Cash, Jr.
Bert DeSantos, Jr.
Willie A. Deese
Charla L. Draper
Blairton Hampton
Linda A. Hill
Julius H. Hollis
James J. Hutchinson, Jr.
Melissa E. James
Dwight Johnson
Phillip Craig Johnson
Frank Christopher Lee
Connie L. Lindsay
Candace Matthews
Irving Matthews
Faith Mba
Ronald D. McCray
Thomas D. McElroy

EntertainmentMakers
Edmund W. Gordon
Dr. Paula A. Johnson
Jamal Joseph
Robin D. G. Kelley
Adelle Logan Alexander
Dwight McBride
Mark Anthony Neal
Zahdwaynaka "Z" Scott
Reynold Verret
Jonathan Lee Walton

LawMakers
Sharon Y. Bowen
The Hon. Karen Freeman-Wilson
The Hon. Henry Frye
Graham C. Grady
The Hon. Saul A. Green
Conrad K. Harper
Henderson Hill
The Hon. Bernetta Johnson
Frederick B. Nance
The Hon. Solomon Oliver, Jr.
The Hon. Kwame Y. Raoul
DeMaurice Smith
The Hon. Melody J. Stewart
The Hon. Deborah M. Turner
Steven H. Wright

November 2022 - December 2023 Interviews By Category

MediaMakers
Jacqueline Adams
Amy DuBois Barnett
Danielle Belton
Fatou Chideya
Stephanie Cleaton
Darrell Ford Williams
Robin Givhan
Kimberly Godwin
Danita Harris
Wonya Lucas
Fred B. Mitchell
Richard “Dick” Peery

MilitaryMakers
Master Gunnery Sergeant Carroll W. Braxton
General Charles Q. Brown
General Darren W. McDew
Major General Linda R. Singh
General Dennis L. Via
Vice Adm. Melvin G. Williams
Chief Master Sergeant Kaleth O. Wright

MusicMakers
Dallas Austin
Shirley Caesar
Roger Dickerson
Lisa Fischer
George Freeman
Fernando Jones
Patricia Netly
Toshi Reagon
Maimouna Youssuf

PoliticalMakers
Aurelia Bazeal
The Hon. G.K. Butterfield
The Hon. Kim Foxx
The Hon. Peter Lawson Jones
The Hon. Howard Nathaniel Lee
The Hon. Lori Lightfoot
The Hon. Henry McKinley “Mickey” Michaux

ReligionMakers
Reverend Dr. Marvin McKibble
Reverend Bill Winston

ScienceMakers

SportsMakers

StyleMakers

BusinessMakers

ArtMakers

November 2022 - December 2023 Interviews By Category

CivicMakers

EducationMakers

EntertainmentMakers

LawMakers

MediaMakers

November 2022 - December 2023 Interviews By Category

176 INTERVIEWS

35 CITIES TRAVELED
"I saw the update on your astounding story on 60 Minutes on Sunday. I was so pleased to see the robust relationship with the Library of Congress had come true. Just the right place for the precious assets you have been collecting. Congratulations to you for your vision and how far you have taken the dream."

-ULRICH STEIN, FORMER PRESIDENT, THE NAUMANN FOUNDATION

The HistoryMakers’ mission has been to educate the world about the history, lives, careers and achievements of African-American leaders in a variety of fields. The program includes public engagements, education, seminars, books, the website, archives, DVDs, CDs and DVDs. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more. The HistoryMakers Digital Archive is a new, computer-based digital archive that contains over 10,000 hours of video and audio interviews with over 1,000 African Americans. The audience can search and listen to interviews on any topic from the Civil Rights Movement to the arts, business, politics, and more.
The HistoryMakers Digital Archive Subscribing Institutions

Now, 205 colleges, universities, public libraries, museums, K-12 schools, and corporations provide free access to The HistoryMakers Digital Archive for patrons, students, faculty, and employees. Bank of America, Toyota Motor North America, The Boeing Company, and the Knight Foundation have all gifted subscriptions to select institutions, as has HistoryMakers Barbara Allyne, John W. Daniels, Jr., Shelley Stewart, Jr., Fletcher "Flash" Wiley, and others.

Colleges & Universities

Alabama
Alabama A&M University
University of Alabama
University of Tuskegee University
Troy University

Arkansas
Arkansas State University
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

California
Fullerton College
Stanford University
The Claremont Colleges
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Southern California

Colorado
Colorado State University
United States Air Force Academy

Connecticut
Yale University

Delaware
University of Delaware

Florida
Rollins College, Florida
Florida A&M University
Florida International University
Palm Beach State College

Georgia
Clark Atlanta University
Emory University
Morehouse College
Morehouse School of Medicine
Spelman College
University of Georgia

Illinois
Chicago State University
Columbia College Chicago
DePaul University
Dominican University
Governor State University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oakton Community College
University of Chicago
University of Illinois, Chicago

Indiana
Indiana University, Bloomington
Purdue University

Iowa
University of Iowa

Kentucky
BluGrass Community &Technical College
Eastern Kentucky University

Louisiana
Dillard University
Grambling State University
Southern University and A&M College
Xavier University of Louisiana

Maryland
Bowie State University
Johns Hopkins University
Morgan State University

Massachusetts
Amherst College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Clark University
Harvard University
Lesley University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Simmons University
Smith College
Tufts University
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Welllesley College
Williams College

Maine
Bates College
Bowdoin College
Colby College

Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Michigan

Minnesota
Carleton College
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Mississippi
Mississippi Valley State University

Missouri
A.T. Still University
Southeast Missouri State University
Washington University in St. Louis

New Hampshire
Dartmouth College

New Jersey
Monmouth University
Princeton University
Rutgers University

New York
Baruch College
Binghamton University
Columbia University
Cornell University
CUNY - Lehman College
New York University
Pratt Institute
Stony Brook University
University of Rochester
Vassar College
Wagner College

North Carolina
Duke University
East Carolina University
Johnson C. Smith University
North Carolina A&T State University
Wake Forest University

Ohio
College of Wooster
Denison University
Ohio State University

Oregon
University of Oregon

Pennsylvania
Brian Maoer College
Carnegie Mellon University
Franklin & Marshall College
Lincoln University
University of Pennsylvania

Rhode Island
Brown University

South Carolina
College of Charleston
South Carolina State University
Voorhees University

Tennessee
Fisk University
Tennessee State University
Vanderbilt University

Texas
Prairie View A&M University
Rice University
Southern Methodist University
Texas Southern University
University of North Texas
University of Texas at Austin
Wiley College

Virginia
Blue Ridge Community College Central Virginia Community College Christopher Newport University
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Danville Community College
Eastern Shore Community College
George Mason University
Germanna Community College
Hampton University
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
James Madison University
John Tyler Community College
Longwood University
Laurel Ridge Community College
Mountain Empire Community College

Washington, D.C.
American University
George Washington University
Howard University

Wisconsin
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Federal Institution
Library of Congress

Public Libraries
Alaska Library Network
Boston Public Library
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Chicago Public Library
Cleveland Public Library
Dallas Public Library
Detroit Public Library
Forsyth County Library
Free Library of Philadelphia
Houston Public Library
Los Angeles Public Library
Lucius Beebe Memorial Library
Martinsburg-Berkeley Public Library

Subscribing Institutions

The HistoryMakers 2023 Annual Report

The HistoryMakers 2023 Annual Report
The HistoryMakers Digital Archive Subscribing Institutions

Public Libraries, cont.
- Miami-Dade Public Library
- New York Public Library
- New Orleans Public Library
- Saint Paul Public Library
- Shreve Memorial Library

Educational and Research Institutions
- American Ancestry/NEHGS
- Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
- Roanoke Higher Education Center
- Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

K-12 Schools
- Archbishop Alter High School
- Conestoga High School
- Cornerstone Christian Academy
- Holy Redeemer Christian Academy
- Matteson School District 162
- Niles North High School
- Ralph H. Metcalf
- The Hotchkiss School
- University High School

Corporation
- ALIVE
- The Boeing Company
- The Community Lincoln Financial Group
- The Hotchkiss School
- University High School

Foundation
- Weingart Foundation

Public Museum
- Getty Research Institute
- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- Public Museum

“...I think The HistoryMakers Digital Archive was added value and a great resource that contributed a wealth of primary sources that students not only identified with but helped them to make real world connections with their own experiences.”

Garnetta Penn
Educator
Benjamin E. Mayes High School

The HistoryMakers Staff

President's Office
- Julieanna Richardson, Founder & President
- Zhu Sun, Chief of Staff
- Marsha Cohan, Special Advisor to the President
- Alexander Parxson, Special Assistant to the President
- Margaret Richardson, Receptionist

Education Coordinator
- Sharon Brown

Oral History Researchers
- Ben Greer
- Elias Rodriguez

Video Oral History Processors/Publishers
- Christopher Cortese
- Emily Jones

Archives
- Daniel Johnson, Consulting Digital Archivist
- Shirley Alonso, Volunteer Archivist

Production
- Paul Mackey, Freelance Producer

Interviewers
- Harriette Cole
- Larry Crowe
- Denise DeBuurt Gines

Videographers
- Matthew Hickey
- Scott Stearns

“The HistoryMakers plays a role in helping the Black community understand itself as well as in helping other communities understand the Black community.”

Zhu Sun
Chief of Staff
Educational Initiatives

2023 Faculty Innovations in Pedagogy and Teaching Fellows

The HistoryMakers awarded nine fellowships to faculty at its subscribing institutions. The fellowship is designed to foster classroom innovation and teaching, and to diversify curricula while furthering student learning and research skills during the upcoming year.

George Daniels
Associate Professor
University of Alabama
Department of Journalism & Mass Media
COURSE: Race, Gender & Media

Jana Duckett
Assistant Professor
Morgan State University
Department of Strategic Communication
COURSE: Media Literacy in a Diverse World

Deborah Faulk
Assistant Professor
University of Richmond
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
COURSE: Sociology of Black Families

Anna Kaplan
Professorial Lecturer
American University
Department of History
COURSE: Women’s Voices Through Time

Nafeesa Muhammad
Assistant Professor
Spelman College
History Department
COURSE: Islam in United States History

Robert Hanserd
Associate Professor
Columbia College Chicago
Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences
COURSE: The Black Arts Movement

Alexa Harris
Assistant Professor
Norfolk State University
History & Interdisciplinary Studies Department
COURSE: Professional Development

Ezelle Sanford III
Assistant Professor
Carnegie Mellon University
Department of History
COURSE: Introduction to African American History

Shively Smith
Assistant Professor of New Testament
Boston University
School of Theology
COURSE: Howard Thurman: Biblical Interpreter for the Public Square
Educational Initiatives

2023 Student Ambassadors

*The HistoryMakers* selected eleven student ambassadors for the 2022-2023 academic year. These ambassadors were responsible for promoting *The HistoryMakers Digital Archive* on their respective college campuses. They also hosted two February digital archive contests and managed a bi-weekly blog.

Faith Kelly Carr  
History (2023)  
Grambling State University

Milena Clark  
History (2024)  
Spelman College

Zoë Coker  
Afro-American Studies (2024)  
Howard University

Olivia Cooper  
Communications (2023)  
Tuskegee University

Delicia Drain  
Business Administration (2023)  
Prairie View A&M University

Felicia Hart  
Business Administration (2023)  
Dillard University

Lillian Jackson  
History (2025)  
Hampton University

Tierney Macon  
Communications (2023)  
Tuskegee University

Akilah Northern  
Business Administration (2024)  
Dillard University

Isabel Torkornoo  
Afro-American Studies (2023)  
Wellesley College

Simone Quary  
Masters Student, CSD  
Hampton University

Educational Initiatives

2023 Student Ambassadors @ Saturday Discussions

Donors and board members were invited to our Saturday morning sessions with our student ambassadors. We would like to thank the following donors and board members for participating. We also want to provide a special thanks to Ronald and Regina McNeil for helping to lead some of our Saturday morning sessions.

Gail Arnold  
Douglas Holloway  
Ronald McNeil

Toni Bush  
Charisse R. Lillie  
Kimberley Simmonns

Deborah Brittain  
Adena Loston  
Emirote Stockton

Ronald Daly  
Tori McClure  
Craig Welburn

Chris Enide  
Regina McNeil  
Diane Welburn

Arnold Gordon-Bray  
Ronald & Regina McNeil

Faith Kelly Carr  
Business Administration (2023)  
Grambling State University

Lillian Jackson  
History (2025)  
Hampton University

Akilah Northern  
Business Administration (2024)  
Dillard University

Simone Quary  
Masters Student, CSD  
Hampton University

Isabel Torkornoo  
Africana Studies (2023)  
Wellesley College

Faith Kelly Carr  
Business Administration (2023)  
Grambling State University

Lillian Jackson  
History (2025)  
Hampton University

Akilah Northern  
Business Administration (2024)  
Dillard University

Simone Quary  
Masters Student, CSD  
Hampton University

Isabel Torkornoo  
Africana Studies (2023)  
Wellesley College

Faith Kelly Carr  
Business Administration (2023)  
Grambling State University

Lillian Jackson  
History (2025)  
Hampton University

Akilah Northern  
Business Administration (2024)  
Dillard University

Simone Quary  
Masters Student, CSD  
Hampton University

Isabel Torkornoo  
Africana Studies (2023)  
Wellesley College
What are Personal Collections (Papers)?

Do I have a personal collection?

In short, you do!

The terms “personal collections” and “papers” can refer to a wide array of materials in various formats:

• Letters/email
• Memoirs/reminiscences
• Diaries/blogs
• Scrapbooks/photo albums
• Professional papers
• Genealogical information
• Speeches/lectures
• Articles/essays
• Subject files
• Legal documents
• Minutes/reports
• Brochures and flyers
• Photographs
• Films/videos/audio tapes
• Websites

Letters, emails, diaries, photos, and other material accumulated over the years give vital and unique information regarding your life or the history of your family. When you donate your personal or family records to a manuscript repository, your family history becomes a part of your community's collective memory. Although interesting as artifacts, the real worth of your papers lies in their evidentiary value. They are the primary sources upon which the writing of history is based.

They permit scholars to reconstruct and understand the past, and set the record straight about events and personalities.

In future years, researchers—including students, professors, genealogists, journalists, and many others—may find your records both interesting and of value to their work.

Who would want my personal collection?

There are numerous institutions that want to collect and preserve your personal materials for research purposes.

How should I prepare?

Make an appointment! Repositories are happy to meet with you to discuss your papers, and any provisions you would like made for them. It is also important that you determine whether or not you will be donating your papers outright, restricting access to the materials, or receiving payment for your collection.

To ensure the preservation of your materials for transfer to a repository, you should keep them in a cool, dry, temperature-stable environment, and any digital materials should be backed up.

While your papers need not be organized, “old,” or related to a famous individual, you should identify any photographs, films, or tapes, and any digital files should have names that indicate content or subject matter.

Be sure to contact a repository before you weed, discard, or reorganize papers and records, regardless of their location or format. The research value of records may be diminished if items are removed, or if the records are rearranged. Generally, repositories are more interested in a coherent body of material rather than individual items, and they prefer to receive the original items rather than copies. Once you donate your records, the staff will continue to work with you as you locate or identify other materials to donate, and will work to process your papers by unpacking, sorting, arranging, and describing the materials. Most repositories have a collecting policy that informs their decisions about what to accept.

*Interview footage donated by NFL Films
Digitization Initiative: Serving 20th Century African American Collections with 21st Century Solutions

Society Favors Documentary Evidence
Society places significantly higher value on those who have documentary evidence of their contributions. But significant aspects of 20th Century African American history are missing from today’s historical record. Unfortunately, this is because many of the decision-makers at libraries, archives and museums around the country know so little of the Black experience. Also, many of the digitized projects of African American materials are scattered or narrowly focused.

Less Than 1% of Our HistoryMakers have repositories for their personal collections. 2,300 of them are aged 70 and above. Most do not have biographies or documentaries preserving their legacies. Though The HistoryMakers has helped place collections and/or encouraged our HistoryMakers to preserve their personal collections, progress has been slow. Some of those who have done so are found below.

- Charles Ogletree
- Dr. Louis W. Sullivan
- National Library of Medicine
- Harvard Law School
- Eli Whitney Family
- Whitney Museum of American Art
- John Rockefeller Sr. Family
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Jessica B. Harris
- Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University
- Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice
- Ensil Ford Family
Digitization Initiative: Serving 20th Century African American Collections with 21st Century Solutions

Preserving 20th Century African American Collections With 21st Century Solutions
- Digitizing First and Processing Second
- Using Artificial Intelligence as well as Machine and Assisted Learning

To Create Incomparable, Complete History
The HistoryMakers can pair its video oral history interviews and biographical database with the digitized materials to provide a greater understanding of the Black experience.

Digitization Initiative: Serving 20th Century African American Collections with 21st Century Solutions

Going forward, we will continue to partner with colleges, universities, public libraries, historical societies, museums and other cultural institutions to:
- Create Replicable Models
- Save collections that would otherwise be lost
Digitization Initiative: Serving 20th Century African American Collections with 21st Century Solutions

The HistoryMakers Digital Library (www.thehistorymakers.org)

Eartha Kitt
Performer & Entertainer

Susan Taylor
Editor, Essence magazine

Audrey Smaltz
Fashion Commentator

Isobel Neal
Gallery Owner

Ed Lewis
Founder, Essence magazine

Marie Brown
Literary Agent

Etta Moten Barnett
Operatic Soprano

George Johnson
Founder, Johnson Products
HistoryMakers by Category

George Jones  
Jeanette Jones  
Dr. Lowell A. Jones  
Marshall Jones  
Alvin Kennedy  
Reatha Clark King  
Kevin Kerney  
Joan Langdon  
George Langford  
Andrea Lawrence  
Victor Lawrence  
William Lever, Jr.  
Ernest Leverett  
Charles Lovell, Jr.  
Calvin Lowe  
William Lupton  
Donald Lyons, Sr.  
Arline Maclin  
Shirley Malcom  
Ronald L. Mallett  
Shirley Malcom  
Arlene Maclin  
William Alexander Lester, III  
David Lattin  
Charles Johnson  
Eddie Jenkins, Jr.  
Mannie Jackson  
Donald Hudson  
Charles Holton  
Darryl Hill  
Spencer Haywood  
Larry Hawkins  
Glenn Harris  
Larry Hagman  
William "Bill" Hayes  
Spencer Haywood  
Daryll Hill  
Charles Holton  
Evaner Holyfield  
Donald Hudson  
Mamie Jackson  
Eddie Jenkins, Jr.  
Charles Johnson  
David Lattin  
William Alexander Lester, III  
Vedette Taylor  
Wilton Ivan Taylor  
John Terry  
Allen N. Thompson, Jr.  
Camilla Thompson  
Edward Tansill  
Demetrious Venable  
Grant Venable  
Reynold Verret  
William Walden  
Lucius Walker  
Dunnell Waldon  
Cardinal Wade  
Isah M. Warner  
Warren Morris Washington  
John Watson  
James West  
Herman Benner White, Jr.  
Woodrow Whisol, Jr.  
Andrew Williams  
Conrad Williams  
Floyd Williams  
Luther Williams  
Samuel Williams  
Roselyn Williams  
Bobby L. Wilson  
Ray F. Wilson  
Herbert Wurfield  
Dwight Wright  
Ivan Yager  
SportsMakers  
Hank Aaron  
Donald K. Anthony, Jr.  
Maurice Ashley  
Emerie Banks  
William Baxter  
Robert Beamon  
Robert Benne  
David Benner  
William T. Benner  
Lowe Benner  
William Maurice Bennett  
Dennis Biddle  
William Blair, Jr.  
M. Blount  
Derrick Brooks  
Charles Brown  
John Carrol  
Harri Carson  
Bernie Casey  
Benjamin F. Davis, Jr.  
Walter D. Davis  
Amia DeFrance  
Eric Garrett Dennis  
Joema Clark Diggs  
Myrtis Dightman  
Herbert Paul Douglas, Jr.  
David R. Ducerson  
Harry Edwards  
Earl Ellis  
Wayne Embry  
Mel Farr, Sr.  
Truman K. Gibson, Jr.  
Mike Glenn  
Tom A. Goss  
Sidney Green  
Jerry Harkness  
Glenn Harris  
Larry Hawkins  
Walter Houston  
Dale Houston  
Welton Ivan Taylor  
Dennis Biddle  
Vernon Morris  
Frank Dale Morgan  
Carol Wood Moore  
Raye Jean Montague  
Julius Taylor  
William Terrell, Sr.  
Norm Van Lier  
Troy Vincent, Sr.  
Chester "Cher" Walker  
Kenneth Walker  
Claude Walker  
Willey B. White  
Lenny Williams  
Dominique Williams  
Billy Williams  
Doug Williams  
Harrison B. Wilson  
John B. Wisten  

This was the most penetrating of interviews.  
Lowery Stokes Sims  
Curator
The Hon. Wilma J. Webb
Warren Morton Washington
Stephanie Tavares-Rance
The Hon. Gloria Travis Tanner
Paul W. Stewart*
*deceased
Benjamin Thomas*
The HistoryMakers

Allen Sessoms
The Hon. Kurt Schmoke
April Ryan
George Russell
Sonya Ross
Frank K. Ross
Johnathan Rodgers
Dr. Griffin P. Rodgers
Radm. Stephen Rochon
Laurie Robinson Haden
Steven Richardson
Earl S. Richardson
Yanick Rice Lamb
Admiral J. Paul Reason
Adine Ray*
Carol Randolph-Jasmine
Franklin D. Raines
Gwendolyn Quinn
Richard Prince
The Hon. Sharon Pratt
Gen. Colin L. Powell*
Renee Poussaint*
Dr. Vivian Pinn
Lanier W. Phillips*
James Phillips
A. Dwight Pettit
HistoryMakers by City

The Hon. Melvin L. Watt
Glegg Watson
James Bud Ward*
Ronald Walters*
Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-
Ann Walker
Barbara Dodson Walker
Demetrius Venable
Patricia Turner
Sterling Tucker*
Eleanor Taylor
William Taylor*
Orlando L. Taylor
Dr. Warren Strudwick, Sr.*
The Hon. Monica Stewart
Hilbert D. Stanley*
A. B. Spellman
William Smith*
Master Gen. Linda R. Singh
Smith
Thompson Sr.
Taylor

James B. Lockhart
Evander Holyfield
Cecil Hayes
Estero
Fredi Sears Brown*
John E. Oxendine
MaVynee Beach Lady Betsch*
Florida

McVay-Allen, Lady Bird
Boca Raton
John E. Ochsendine
Bradenton
Freid Ford Brown*

Coconut Grove
Thelma Gibson
Coral Gables
Eston

Fort Lauderdale
W. George Allen*
Charles W. Cherry II
Al Green
Cecil Hayes
Erander Holyfield
William Hudson*
Andrew Ingraham
James B. Lockhart

Craig Williamson
Janet L. Sims-Wood
Master Gen. Linda L. Singh
Dr. Jeanne Craig Snifield
Rosheny E. Shuler
DelMaurice Smith
Frank Smith
William Rails*
A. B. Spellman
Harrell Spruill*
Earl Stafford
Hilbert D. Stanley*
Robert Stanton
Bishop Imagine Stewart*
The Hon. Monica Stewart
Stacey Stewart
Col. James Smith
Louv Stewart
Dr. Warren Strawbrick, Sr.*
Reginald Stuart
H. Patrick Sweeney
Caril Synoudis
Tyrone Taborn
Brigadier General Francis X.
Taylor
Cedella L. Taylor
The Hon. Wilford Wood
William Taylor*
Riley K. Temple
Rosayn Terborg-Pettis*
John Terry
Sheila Gregory Thomas
Sunaman 3rd Class Robert E.
Thompson Sr.
e:

Nessie Akbar
Augustus Coburn*
James N. Eason, Sr.*
The Hon. James Ford
William Fossum
Evangelic Hall*
Dr. Henry Lewis
Alvin Little*
Clarence Love
Lionel McMillen*
Dr. Virgil Norris*
Lionel McMurren*
Evangeline Hall*
William Foster*
Rev. Dr. DuBose Brooks
Myron B. Doyle

Thomasville

McGee

Orange

Orlando

Dr. Delutha King*
Bishop Eddie L. Long*
Patricia Lottier
Dennis Paul Kimbro
Paul Jones*
Ingrid Saunders Jones
Frank Jones*
Joseph Johnson*
Bunnie Jackson-Ransom
Joseph Johnson*
Frank Jones*
George Jones
Ingrid Saunders Jones
Read Kibbrough
Rev. Dr. Barbara L. King*
Bernard Alibertine King
Dr. Delberta King*
Naomi King
Andra Lawrence
Diane McCoy-Lee
Dr. Christopher Leggett
J. W. Lemon*
Kennedy Leon
William Alexander
Lester, III

The Hon. John Lewis*
Willard Chuck Lewis
Bene Little*
Bishop Eddie L. Long*
Richard Long*
Patricia Lottier
Evelyn Gibson Lowery*
Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery*
James Hiram Malone*
Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, Jr.*
Herman Skip Mason
Michael Mauldin
Gary May
Cornell McBride, Sr.
Rev. Emmanuel McColl
Barbara Mitchell
J. Larry McCall
Terry McClure
Eric Rocky McKinney
The Hon. Harold D. Milon
Ronald Mickens
The Hon. Stew Milks
Rev. Henry Mitchell*
Dan Moree, Sr.
Alfred Moreau
Ethan Chukwun
James Paschal*
Jennifer Patrick
McIntosh Patrick
Willie Parrer, Jr.
Dr. Rodrigo Phillips
Beaufort
Rev. Calvin O. Presley*
Condrey Presley
Juliette W. Pryor

The HistoryMakers 2022 Annual Report

82

83
Essentially, a death at The HistoryMakers no longer represents the “burning of a library,” but the “saving of a legacy of a people.”
In Memoriam

CLARENCE AVANT
Music Executive
Feb. 25, 1931 - Aug. 13, 2023

Association with The HistoryMakers (2000-2023)
Advisor, An Evening With Harry Belafonte (2000)
Member, National Planning Summit (2003)
Honorary Chair, An Evening With Quincy Jones (2007)
Event Chair, An Evening With Berry Gordy (2012)
Honorary Event Co-Chair, An Evening With Debra Lee (2019)

We will love you forever and always.
Julieann Richardson, The HistoryMakers

“You begin with a number and you end with a number.”
Clarence Avant
In Memoriam

CHRISTINE KING FARRIS
Educator and Civic Leader
Sept. 11, 1927 - June 19, 2023

“Isaac Farris, Jr., I see a lot of King in him. Angela came on and she is carrying on the family legacy, and I’m proud of that.”
Christine King Farris

In Memoriam

CAPT. WILLIAM “BILL” PINKNEY
First African American to Sail Around the World via Cape Horn
Sept. 15, 1935 - Aug. 31, 2023

“I think I would like people to remember me as somebody who had a dream of something that could be accomplished, but many would not attempt. I did something that I, I felt that I had to do, and that was important to do. And I’ve done that. It has made me internally rich beyond belief.”
Capt. William “Bill” Pinkney
In Memoriam

CHARLES “TREE” OGLETREE
Civil Rights Lawyer / Law Professor
Dec. 31, 1952 - Aug. 4, 2023

“Simple, Charles Ogletree was lifted up by others, and he wants to lift up those under him to make sure they enter the same way that he did and they leave the door open. That’s it. It has to be.”

Charles Ogletree

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE, CHARLES?

In Memoriam

The deaths of those who passed in 2023 demonstrate the urgency of The HistoryMakers initiative.

The Honorable Marvin S. Arrington, Sr.
02/10/1941-07/05/2023
Superior Court Judge

Harry Belafonte
3/1/1927-4/25/2023
Entertainer

Charles Blockson
12/16/1933-06/14/2023
Archivist

James M. Blount
06/05/1943-09/28/2023
Newspaper Publisher

Grace-Melzia Bumbry
01/04/1937-05/07/2023
Opera Singer

Hugh C. Burroughs
02/06/1940-09/23/2023
Foundation Executive

Josie Childs
10/13/1926-02/13/2023
Community Activist

Eileen Cline
06/25/1935-11/17/2023
Academic Administrator

Marian Cullers
12/1927-04/07/2023
Advertising Executive

"Simple, Charles Ogletree was lifted up by others, and he wants to lift up those under him to make sure they enter the same way that he did and they leave the door open. That’s it. It has to be.”

Charles Ogletree
In Memoriam

The deaths of those who passed in 2023 demonstrate the urgency of The HistoryMakers initiative.

Bishop Sedgwick Daniels
08/16/1959-11/12/2023
Bishop

Herbert Paul Douglas, Jr.
03/09/1922-04/22/2023
Track and Field Athlete

Edward Gardner
02/25/1925-03/20/2023
Personal Care Entrepreneur

Willard R. Johnson
11/22/1935-11/02/2023
African American Studies & Political Science Professor

The Honorable Melvin King
10/20/1928-03/28/2023
Community Activist / State Representative

Reverend Dr. Lena McLin
09/05/1928-10/03/2023
High School Music Teacher

Curtis "Kojo" Morrow
03/27/1933-05/20/2023
Jewelry Artist

Harry Porterfield
08/29/1928-10/23/2023
Television Personality

Useni Eugene Perkins
09/13/1932-05/07/2023
Poet / Writer

In Memoriam

The deaths of those who passed in 2023 demonstrate the urgency of The HistoryMakers initiative.

Jon Haggins
09/05/1943-06/15/2023
Fashion Designer

Ira Hall
08/23/1944-01/11/2023
Chief Executive Officer

Ruth Edmonds Hill
03/05/1925-04/15/2023
Librarian

Curtis "Kojo" Morrow
03/27/1933-05/20/2023
Jewelry Artist

Alice Palmer
06/20/1939-05/25/2023
State Senator

Useni Eugene Perkins
09/13/1932-05/07/2023
Poet / Writer

Isaac "Redd" Holt
05/16/1932-03/23/2023
Jazz Musician

Alexine Jackson
06/10/1936-08/02/2023
Nonprofit Executive

Bunnie Jackson-Ransom
11/16/1940-02/02/2023
Marketing Entrepreneur / Music Manager

Grover Pettes
12/10/1925-02/14/2023
Nonprofit Executive

Harry Porterfield
08/29/1928-10/23/2023
Television Personality

Renault Robinson
09/08/1942-07/08/2023
Community Activist / Police Officer

Herbert Paul Douglas, Jr.
03/09/1922-04/22/2023
Track and Field Athlete

Edward Gardner
02/25/1925-03/20/2023
Personal Care Entrepreneur

The Honorable Melvin King
10/20/1928-03/28/2023
Community Activist / State Representative

Reverend Dr. Lena McLin
09/05/1928-10/03/2023
High School Music Teacher
In Memoriam
The deaths of those who passed in 2023 demonstrate the urgency of The HistoryMakers initiative.

Richard Roundtree
07/09/1942-10/24/2023
Film Actor

Walter Royal
05/18/1956-05/23/2023
Chef

Katherine Schaffner
01/16/1944-09/19/2023
Singer

Wayne Shorter
08/25/1933-03/02/2023
Saxophonist / Music Composer

Romance Watson
01/04/1930-12/06/2022
Singer

Richard Roundtree
07/09/1942-10/24/2023
Film Actor

Walter Royal
05/18/1956-05/23/2023
Chef

Katherine Schaffner
01/16/1944-09/19/2023
Singer

Wayne Shorter
08/25/1933-03/02/2023
Saxophonist / Music Composer

Romance Watson
01/04/1930-12/06/2022
Singer

“In Memoriam
The deaths of those who passed in 2023 demonstrate the urgency of The HistoryMakers initiative.

Preservation of the African American documentary record will guarantee its inclusion. That, in turn, will allow present and future generations to be educated properly about the contributions of African Americans—thus diversifying the historical record.”