

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Peggy Montes

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Montes, Peggy A., 1936-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes,
Dates:	August 10, 2001 and October 1, 2011
Bulk Dates:	2001 and 2011
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:46:48).
Abstract:	Museum chief executive Peggy Montes (1936 -) is the founder of the Bronzeville Children's Museum, the first and only African American children's museum in the country. The Bronzeville Children's Museum's mission is to educate and expose children to the rich contributions, culture, and heritage of African Americans and people of Africa and its diaspora through activities, interactive exhibits, and games. Montes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 10, 2001 and October 1, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_050
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Bronzeville Children's Museum founder, Peggy Montes, started her career as a teacher in the Illinois public school system. Montes was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 17, 1936, and graduated from DuSable High School in 1954.

In 1978, Montes began devoting her energy to philanthropic and volunteer work, becoming particularly involved with the DuSable Museum of African American History. She served as chairperson of the Board of Trustees for the Museum from 1989 to 1993, heading the construction of the museum's Harold Washington wing. This role gave her the distinction of being the first woman to chair both the museum's governing body and its building committee. She also was appointed by the late Mayor Harold Washington as executive director of the Chicago Commission on Women.

On August 20, 1993, Montes and a group of dedicated business, civic, cultural and educational leaders founded the Bronzeville Children's Museum in Evergreen Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The first and only African American children's museum in the country, the Bronzeville Children's Museum's mission is to educate and expose children to the rich contributions, culture, and heritage of African Americans and people of Africa and its diaspora through activities, interactive exhibits, and games.

She is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inc. 1987 Woman of Achievement Award and Dollars & Sense Magazine's 1993 America's Best & Brightest Business and Professional Award. Currently, Montes is a member of the Illinois Art Council, and a Trustee at both the DuSable Museum of African American History and Chicago State University.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Peggy Montes was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 10, 2001 and October 1, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes uncompressed MOV digital video files. Museum chief executive Peggy Montes (1936 -) is the founder of the Bronzeville Children's Museum, the first and only African American children's museum in the country. The Bronzeville Children's Museum's mission is to educate and expose children to the rich contributions, culture, and heritage of African Americans and people of Africa and its diaspora through activities, interactive exhibits, and games.

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:

Montes, Peggy A., 1936-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Montes, Peggy A., 1936---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Museum Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Peggy Montes, August 10, 2001 and October 1, 2011. 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 Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_001_001, TRT: 0:29:12 ?
Educator and professional volunteer Peggy Montes details her childhood and family background in Chicago and the South, describing her Chicago neighborhood, her childhood personality, and her schooling.

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_001_002, TRT: 0:30:33 ?

Educator and activist, Peggy Montes details her education at Chicago Teachers College in the late 1950s and her subsequent years teaching in the Chicago Public School System. Montes recalls triumphs and also a sense of resignation after seeing her students slip into the abyss of drug use and teen pregnancy.

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_001_003, TRT: 0:10:15 ?

Educator and founder of the Bronzeville Children's Museum, Peggy Montes, details how she first came to be involved with the DuSable Museum. She also discusses the challenges and richness found in her marriage to Paul Montes, a Haitian native. She values the diversity of the Haitian and black American cultures her children were exposed to and embraced.

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_002_004, TRT: 0:29:44 ?

Activist and organizer Peggy Montes describes her unique mentor/friendship with Dr. Margaret Burroughs and its role in Montes' involvement with the DuSable Museum. Montes describes the efforts to build the Harold Washington Wing at the museum during her tenure as chair of the board of trustees.

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_002_005, TRT: 0:31:09 ?

Women's advocate and activist, Peggy Montes describes her efforts to elect Harold Washington as Chicago's first black mayor. She spearheaded a movement to involve women in Chicago's electoral politics by forming the first Commission on Women.

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_002_006, TRT: 0:29:26 ?

Political activist Peggy Montes posits on the importance of volunteering, her hopes for black America and her family.

Video Oral History Interview with Peggy Montes, Section A2001_050_002_007, TRT: 0:06:29 ?

Peggy Montes narrates her photographs.