

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bernice Baynes Brown

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Brown, Bernice Baynes
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 26, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:00:00).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator Bernice Baynes Brown (1935 - 2009 ) served the San Francisco Public Schools Commission as its director and commissioner, as the program executive for the San Francisco Foundation, as Vice President of Educational Consulting Services for Academic Enterprises and as the Dean of Workforce Education for the City College of San Francisco. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 26, 2002, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_032
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and advocate Bernice Baynes Brown was born on June 19, 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Pittsburgh's Perry High School in 1953 before attending Carnegie Mellon University where she earned her B.F.A. She later pursued graduate work in education at the University of Pittsburgh and earned her M.Ed.

She began her career in education teaching art courses at Carlow College in Pittsburgh before relocating to San Francisco, where she lectured in art history at California State University and worked as an Education Specialist for the Bay Area Urban League. In 1968, she joined Lone Mountain College as an Assistant Professor in the Education Department and in just four years became the Dean of Students. In 1976, Brown left Lone Mountain to work for the San Francisco Public Schools Commission as its Director and Commissioner. One year later, she began a ten-year run as the Program Executive for the San Francisco Foundation. For the next four years, Brown served as the Vice-President of Educational Consulting Services for Academic Enterprises while acting as Foundation Administrator for the Clorox Company Foundation.

Brown has worked for the City College of San Francisco since 1991. She was the Dean of Faculty and Staff Development and the Campus Dean for the Southeast Campus, and currently acts as the Dean of Workforce Education.

Throughout her career, she has been an active advocate for education. She served as the Chair of the Vocational Educational Advisory Committee for California Schools and Colleges. She has sat on the boards of directors of the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the Northern California Grantmakers, the Foundation for Community Service Cable Television, the Women and Foundations/Corporate Philanthropy group, the San

Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society, and the Commonwealth Club of California. She has been a Trustee for both the San Francisco Bar Association Foundation and the Schools of the Sacred Hearts. She has acted on the Steering Committee and as the Chair for the Council on Foundations' Pre-Collegiate Education Group. She remains on the boards of Global Educators, Urban Economic Development Corporations and the High Scope Education Research Foundation. Brown passed away on July 24, 2009.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bernice Baynes Brown was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 26, 2002, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Academic administrator Bernice Baynes Brown (1935 - 2009 ) served the San Francisco Public Schools Commission as its director and commissioner, as the program executive for the San Francisco Foundation, as Vice President of Educational Consulting Services for Academic Enterprises and as the Dean of Workforce Education for the City College of San Francisco.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Bernice Baynes Brown

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Bernice Baynes Brown--Interviews

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African American educators--California--San Francisco.

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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City College of San Francisco

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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## 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 Bernice Baynes Brown, March 26, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/11/2012 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage, March 26, 2002

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002\_032\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:00 2002/03/26

Bernice Baynes Brown was born on June 19, 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Brown's older brother, Jacques Virgil Baynes, was born in 1932. Her younger sister, Virginia Baynes Wood, was born in 1937. Brown's mother, Henrietta (nee Hodges) Baynes was born in Middletown, Delaware. Brown's mother and father divorced in 1949. As a child, Brown was able to attend Camp Johnson in Raccoon Creek State Park for two months every summer. Brown expressed an interest in art at an early age and she was encouraged by her mother. Brown attended Minersville Elementary School and Robert L. Van Elementary School, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She attended Herron Hill Junior High School and McNaugher Elementary School (K-8) for junior high school. Brown graduated from Perry High School in 1953, before enrolling in Carnegie Tech (Carnegie Mellon University) and majoring in art education.

African American soldiers--World War, 1939-1945.

African American mothers--Pennsylvania.

African American families--Pennsylvania.

African American children--Education (Elementary)--Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh.

Raccoon Creek State Park (Pa.).

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002\_032\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:00

Brown grew up in Pittsburgh's "Hill District", a neighborhood full of both poor and wealthy black people. After high school, Brown attended Carnegie Mellon University. In 1957, she graduated with a degree in art education. Her first teaching position was at Carlow College (Mount Mercy College) then attended University of Pittsburgh and earned her master's degree in education in 1963. When Brown arrived in California in 1967, she worked for the Bay Area Urban League as an education specialist. Afterwards Brown worked as a project director for the San Francisco College for Women. The California State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed in a commission to improve San Francisco public schools. Afterwards, she accepted a position in the San Francisco Foundation where she worked to provide funding for innovative ways to improve schools and became an advocate for community colleges.

Hill District (Pittsburgh, Pa.).

Carnegie Mellon University.

African American social life and customs--Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh

Public schools--California--San Francisco.

San Francisco College for Women.

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002\_032\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:00 2002/03/26

In 1976, Brown began working for the San Francisco Foundation, where she successfully helped fund projects benefiting women and minorities, like the "Eyes on the Prize" documentary. Brown left after ten years because the organization was involved in a controversial legal battle. Brown used the opportunity and her experience to start her own consulting business. In 1988, she was encouraged to apply for an administrator position at San Francisco City College by the chancellor, Evan Dobbelle. She was initially hired as the Director of Faculty and Staff Development and was promoted to Dean of Bay View-

Hunter's Point campus. Brown identifies three major roles for community colleges in California, including life-long learning, job training, and preparing students to transfer to a four year college.

San Francisco Foundation.

Marin County (Calif.).

Community college administrators--United States.

African American businesswomen.

City College of San Francisco.

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002\_032\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:00 2002/03/26

Brown discusses how the majority of her success can be attributed to being in the right place at the right time, as well as her confidence in her own abilities. She hopes that more young blacks will find a sense of self-worth and pride in contributing to their own communities. Brown concedes that her mother and her Camp Johnson experience gave her much of the advice and guidance which has served her throughout life.

African American mothers.

Self-confidence.

African American social life and customs.