

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw

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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>	Grimshaw, Jacky
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 19, 2005, February 7, 2003 and January 10, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003 and 2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14 Betacame SP videocassettes (6:46:13).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Nonprofit chief executive Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw (1942 - ) was a relentless behind the scenes organizer for Harold Washington's Mayoral campaigns Grimshaw was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 19, 2005, February 7, 2003 and January 10, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_001
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Activist and public policy advocate Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw was born in Macon, Georgia, on May 15, 1942, to James Lane and Lovia Lane-Thorton. She graduated from Loretto Academy Catholic High School in Chicago in 1960 and earned a B.S. in biology from Marquette University in 1965. In 1967, Grimshaw received an education certificate from Chicago Teachers College.

After early work in the media industry, Grimshaw's career path turned to public policy when she joined the Illinois Department of Labor and Personnel. She was then employed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a

program officer for the Indiana Work Incentive Program and Head Start.

Grimshaw worked for the campaign of Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and, in 1984, she joined the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In 1986, Washington named her his top legislative aide. There she played a critical role in pushing forth the mayor's legislative agenda. After Washington's untimely death, Grimshaw went on to serve as deputy city treasurer for economic development. In 1992, she joined the Center for Neighborhood Technology as its vice president of policy, transportation and community development.

Over the years, Grimshaw has had numerous civic and professional affiliations, including membership in the Surface Transportation Policy Project, the Transportation Research Board's committees on Environmental Justice and Women's Issues in Transportation, the American Public Transport Association, Congress for New Urbanism, Smart Grown America, Renew America/Renew the Earth, and the Center for Clean Air Policy.

She married William J. Grimshaw in 1964. They have two children, Kimberly D. Grimshaw-Bolton and Christopher M. Grimshaw.

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## **Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 19, 2005, February 7, 2003 and January 10, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 14 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nonprofit chief executive Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw (1942 - ) was a relentless behind the scenes organizer for Harold Washington's Mayoral campaigns

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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

## 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:

Grimshaw, Jacky

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Grimshaw, Jacky--Interviews

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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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## Occupations:

## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

CivicMakers

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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 Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, August 19, 2005, February 7, 2003 and January 10, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:45 2003/01/10

Jacquelyne Grimshaw was born in Macon, Georgia, on May 15, 1942, to James Lane and Lovia Lane-Thorton. Her mother was descended from a Native American woman and an Irish indentured servant named Gabriel. Some of her female ancestors were lynched because they looked white and were married to people who looked black. Her mother graduated from a business college and had six children. Her father was a charming man, an excellent cook and dressed impeccably as he was employed by Hart Schaffner and Marx, a menswear store. Her parents met in high school in Georgia but relocated to Chicago during World War II. Grimshaw remembers the street vendors, the beauty of Washiington Park, frequent parades occurring on Grand Avenue and playing with neighborhood friends. As a Girl Scout, she participated in Regal Theater shows where she saw Sam Cooke, Ella Fitzgerald, Pearl Bailey, and other singers. She went to Corpus Christi Elementary School and often took the jitney so that she would not be late.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:23 2003/01/10

Jacquelyne Grimshaw talks about her education. As a teenager, she helped her godmother, Harriet Thompson, with labwork at Provident Hospital which led to an early interest in science and medicine. After graduating from Loretto Academy Catholic High School in Chicago in 1960, she earned a B.S. degree in biology from Marquette University in 1965. While there, Grimshaw was deeply affected by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and as one of the few black students at Marquette, she noticed that Southern black students struggled with feeling inferior. After taking a few classes at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois to complete her degree requirements, Grimshaw was hired as a short-hour substitute at the U.S. Postal Service. While seeking medical treatment following

a car accident, a doctor recruited her to work at Michael Reese Hospital's laboratory. She lost that job when her great-grandmother's death caused her to miss work.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:20 2003/01/10

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes her teaching career and becoming involved in community organizing. Grimshaw met her husband, William J. Grimshaw, while working at the U.S. Postal Service during college. Despite her science background, Grimshaw was placed in a fourth grade classroom at Woodson North Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois where she learned how to communicate and organized a field trip to Canada. Grimshaw then briefly took a research assistant position at the University of Chicago before returning to teaching. In 1975, Grimshaw earned her public policy degree and became involved with The Woodlawn Organization as a community organizer helping to create a buffer between gangs on Chicago's South Side. She was encouraged by her friend, Albert Raby, a community activist who worked with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:50 2003/01/10

Jacquelyne Grimshaw talks about her early political involvement. Grimshaw recalls when Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the Soldier Field rally in Chicago, Illinois in 1966. Grimshaw met Al Raby at the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference and they worked closely as community organizers. Grimshaw's political involvement stems from her interest in the Democratic National Convention. She was a delegate at three conventions including the 1972 DNC where she worked with others to successfully unseat Richard J. Daley's delegation and the 1984 DNC where she ran interference between Mayor Harold Washington and reporter Ed Bradley. Grimshaw learned about politics firsthand through her election to the Model Cities Council when she witnessed a precinct captain manipulating the vote. Following that experience, Grimshaw became a precinct captain and area chair. She also was active in the Independent Voters of Illinois and the Independent

## Precinct Organization

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:00 2003/01/10

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes Mayor Harold Washington's political career leading up to his 1983 mayoral campaign. Grimshaw did not embrace Saul Alinsky's community organizing. She met Chicago politicians through her father, including Alderman Ralph Metcalfe, HistoryMaker John Stroger, and Harold Washington as a child. In the 1960s, Harold Washington was elected to the Illinois General Assembly. After Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died in 1976 and City Council president pro tem and HistoryMaker Wilson Frost was not selected as interim mayor per written protocol, an outcry came from the black community and Washington ran for Mayor of Chicago in 1977. Although Washington lost that election, he ran again in 1983 amid rising support to elect a black mayor led by HistoryMaker Lutrelle "Lu" Palmer's radio slogan "We'll see in '83." Grimshaw canvassed for the Washington campaign alongside campaign manager Al Raby who took over for HistoryMaker Renault Robinson. Grimshaw comments on the enthusiasm on Election Day.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_001\_006, TRT: 0:29:30 2003/01/10

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes Harold Washington's 1983 Chicago mayoral campaign. As part of Washington's inner circle, along with Monica Faith Stewart, Al Raby, and Jan Roland, Grimshaw developed a voter strategy aimed at the black, Hispanic, and liberal lake front communities alongside a voter registration campaign funded by HistoryMaker Edward Gardner. Grimshaw describes Washington's winning the mayoral debate and the rally at the Pavilion organized by Sid Ordower as the two turning points in the campaign that led to his victory. Grimshaw describes her handling of busloads of Midwestern college students who volunteered on election day. Grimshaw was elated when Washington was elected the first black mayor of Chicago, and recalls that the Chicago media did not believe he had won. She remembers reporter Lynn Sweet writing about Grimshaw's

son taking part in a Christmas tree lighting with the mayor. Grimshaw was appointed assistant director and later director of the mayor's office of intergovernmental affairs.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_002\_007, TRT: 0:29:15 2003/02/07

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's first term and his 1987 reelection campaign. During his first term, Washington established his leadership in the city and took on President Ronald Reagan's elimination of federal revenue sharing. In the mid-1980s, redistricting created more black and Hispanic wards which allowed Washington to gain more control of City Council. Grimshaw was optimistic heading into Washington's 1987 reelection campaign given the success of his policies. Grimshaw describes Washington's political opponents in 1987, Tom Hynes, who had the campaign organization and fundraising of his South Side Irish base, and Jane Byrne, the former one-term Chicago mayor who abandoned her campaign promises and was steamrolled by others. Grimshaw also describes the roles of Edward Vrdolyak and Edward Burke. Serving as deputy campaign manager and filling in as campaign manager, Grimshaw focused on precinct coordination and used the advantages of incumbency to secure victory.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_002\_008, TRT: 0:28:50 2003/02/07

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes how working for Chicago Mayor Harold Washington was a twenty four hour a day job and adversely impacted her family. She missed family vacations to St. Croix and Europe and an international trip to China with the mayor when urgent city business occurred. Grimshaw talks about her love of Chicago Bears football. Battles over housing and education dominated Washington's second mayoral term. Mayor Harold Washington enjoyed working with community organizations. Grimshaw also comments on the creation of The Harold Washington Library which she viewed as a fitting tribute since Harold Washington was an avid reader. She recalls that Washington was ill in weeks leading up to his death on November 25, 1987 and her last conversation

with him followed her TV appearance on “Chicago Tonight.”

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_002\_009, TRT: 0:29:20 2003/02/07

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes learning of Mayor Harold Washington’s death on November 25, 1987. Grimshaw recalls that an administrative assistant and HistoryMaker Brenda Gaines both called her to say that Washington had been rushed to the hospital. Grimshaw went to City Hall where she received the news that Washington had died. As she dealt with phone calls and funeral arrangements over the Thanksgiving holiday, a battle for succession emerged under the guidance of Vice Mayor David Orr. According to the City rules, the president pro tem of City Council, HistoryMaker Eugene Sawyer, would become interim mayor if the sitting mayor dies. Grimshaw describes the coalition of 26 aldermen in the City Council, some of whom agreed with Washington and some who were forced to align with him due to their constituents. Following his death, the coalition split their support between Eugene Sawyer and Timothy Evans. Grimshaw describes Washington lying in state and making funeral arrangements.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_002\_010, TRT: 0:29:20 2003/02/07

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes Mayor Harold Washington’s funeral that was held at HistoryMaker Reverend Dr. Johnnie Colemon’s Christ Universal Church. Grimshaw recalls the thousands of people who stood in the procession line from City Hall to the funeral. Mayor Washington had a genuine connection to people and that the black community felt a great sense of pride. Shortly after, Grimshaw attended the rally at UIC pavilion that Tim Evans and his Washington coalition supporters held. On December 2, 1987, the Chicago City Council debated whether Tim Evans or HistoryMaker Eugene Sawyer should be interim mayor. Grimshaw cleaned out her office in City Hall while watching the meeting on television. The meeting lasted all night and Sawyer was named interim mayor. When Grimshaw returned from a press conference, Sawyer’s people had changed the locks to her office. After

taking a year off from work, Grimshaw made radio and public appearances before working for City Treasurer Miriam Santos.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_003\_011, TRT: 0:29:20 2005/08/19

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes becoming Deputy Treasurer for Economic Development for the City of Chicago in 1991 where she lobbied the Illinois General Assembly and the Chicago City Council to protect city workers' pension funds. Grimshaw describes City Treasurer Miriam Santos as having a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality who became jealous if staff received attention. A number of work conflicts arose between Grimshaw and Santos as Grimshaw tended to her ailing father, took bereavement time after his death, and went to the inauguration of President Bill Clinton. Santos fired Grimshaw who was quickly recruited for a position at the Center for Neighborhood Technology where she had been a board member. The Center for Neighborhood Technology was founded by Scott Bernstein who solved neighborhood problems, such as pedestrians accidents, rat infestation, and vitamin deficiencies, through the Christian Action Ministries on the West Side of Chicago.

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Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_003\_012, TRT: 0:30:20 2005/08/19

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes her job at the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, Illinois. Grimshaw was involved in developing many programs including real time pricing for electricity, car sharing, and the University Pass, a CTA program for college students. Grimshaw describes the abandoned housing policy of Chicago Mayor Harold Washington. Alongside HistoryMaker Brenda Gaines, the Commissioner of Housing, Grimshaw developed the Neighborhood Early Warning System or NEWS that used city and county indicators to determine where abandoned buildings were. When she worked for the Center for Neighborhood Technology in the 1990s, she was in charge of the NEWS program there. Having worked on the same issue from the government and non-profit perspectives, Grimshaw finds both rewarding.

However, she points out the power of the person in charge in determining the implementation of progressive ideology. Grimshaw shares her views on Chicago corruption.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_003\_013, TRT: 0:28:30 2005/08/19

Jacquelyne Grimshaw describes the corruption of Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration including the political power base for the mayor in the Hispanic community, the truck for hire scandal, hiring unqualified people, and operating criminal drug operations. Grimshaw is skeptical that Mayor Daley was unaware of the corruption. Grimshaw is concerned by the high rate of incarceration and the impact of the City of Chicago's failing education system on the black community. Grimshaw sees her legacy as Mayor Harold Washington's administration, and she wants to be remembered as a person who helped others. She talks about her support of HistoryMaker Barack Obama's political career and how she believed early on that he could become Chicago's next black mayor. Grimshaw also comments on the 2004 Presidential Election and witnessing voting obstacles in Ohio. Grimshaw says that she may write a book about her life experiences when she retires.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw, Section A2003\_001\_003\_014, TRT: 0:22:30 2005/08/19

Jacquelyne Grimshaw narrates her photographs.