



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carol L. Adams

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carol L. Adams
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams,
Dates:	April 7, 2003, August 24, 2010
Bulk Dates:	2003, 2010
Physical Description:	9 Betacam SP videocassettes (4:06:53).
Abstract:	Museum director Carol L. Adams (1944 -) was the secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services and director of the Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern Illinois University. She is currently the president and chief executive officer of the DuSable Museum of African American History. Adams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 7, 2003 and August 24, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_066
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Museum director Carol L. Adams was born on May 11, 1944, in Louisville, Kentucky to William and Lora Adams. She studied music at Lincoln University in Jefferson, Missouri, for a year before transferring to Fisk University where she graduated with a B.A. degree in sociology in 1965. The following year she earned her M.A. degree in sociology from Boston University. She pursued doctoral coursework at the University of Chicago, studying under esteemed sociologist Horace R. Cayton, before leaving to complete her Ph.D. degree in sociology from the Union Graduate School in 1976. She has also studied at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and at Yale University.

In 1968, Adams began her career in academia as the research director for the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) at Northeastern Illinois University. Over a ten-year period, she assumed greater responsibility as the CICS's assistant director and became a tenured associate professor. She developed a number of successful programs and key community partnerships for CICS during its early years. Adams went on to spend several years as the first director of research and planning for the Neighborhood Institute, a division of South Shore Bank (later the Shorebank Institute). In just two years, Adams managed to establish several programs designed to promote community development, revitalization and self-sufficiency.

In 1981, Adams returned to academia as the director for Loyola University's African-American studies program, a position she held until 1988. She then served as dean of adult and continuing education at Kennedy-King College in Chicago for a year. From 1989 to 1996, Adams worked for the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). While at the CHA, Adams went from directing one department to managing thirteen departments and a \$500 million budget. Adams subsequently served as the director for the International House of Blues Foundation and

the founding director of Chicago's Museums and Public Schools program before returning in 2000 to Northeastern University as Executive Director of CICS. Under her direction, the Center experienced a new surge of growth in student enrollment, technological advancement, and community programming and collaborations.

In January 2003, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich named Adams secretary of the Department of Human Services, the state's largest government agency. During her six year tenure, the agency secured almost \$250 million in new grant funding and dramatically reduced the infant mortality rate of infants born to Medicaid-eligible women. Since 2009, Adams has been the president and chief executive officer of the DuSable Museum of African American History. Adams has been the recipient of numerous research awards, grants and honors, including the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa key.

Carol Adams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 7, 2003 and August 24, 2010.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carol L. Adams was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 7, 2003 and August 24, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 Betacam SP videocassettes. Museum director Carol L. Adams (1944 -) was the secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services and director of the Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern Illinois University. She is currently the president and chief executive officer of the DuSable Museum of African American History.

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:

Adams, Carol L.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

Adams, Carol L.--Interviews
African Americans--Interviews

African American government executives--Illinois--Interviews.

African American college administrators--Illinois--Interviews.

African American museum directors--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Carol L. Adams, April 7, 2003 and August 24, 2010. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/8/2011 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, April 7, 2003, August 24, 2010

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00
2003/04/07

Carol Adams shares knowledge of her family history. Both of her parents were born in Kentucky. Her family experienced tragedy because of segregation. Her paternal grandfather died from an on-the-job injury because the all-white hospital would not admit him. Adams discusses several memories of her childhood. Her oldest sister gave her lessons, and Adams was able to skip kindergarten. Her father was a community volunteer and active in the Presbyterian church. He was proud that his daughters had piano and violin lessons. Adams recalls her time at Booker T. Washington Elementary School and Louisville Central High School. Her high school teacher, Lamén T. Johnson, was an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement and a major role model. Adams participated in many extra-curricular activities including student council and women's chorus call.

African American families--Kentucky--Louisville.

African American education--Kentucky--Louisville.

Segregation--Kentucky--Louisville.

African American education (Secondary)--Kentucky--Louisville.

African Americans--Kentucky--Louisville--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_001_002, TRT: 0:29:05
2003/04/07

Carol Adams discusses her college years and her Civil Rights Movement activism. She recalls African Americans boycotting downtown businesses in Louisville, Kentucky in 1961. At her parents' urging, she attended Lincoln University in Jefferson, Missouri, to study music. Adams was unhappy at Lincoln and disapproved of the college president, who expelled students involved in civil rights demonstrations. She transferred to Fisk University, which was more supportive of student activism. She reminisces about her professors, Aaron Douglas and Robert Hayden. She recalls her participation in civil rights demonstrations. She discusses Fisk sociologist Jitsuichi Masuoka, who recommended her to sociology professor John Mogeý at Boston University. After graduating from Boston University with an M.A. degree in sociology, she moved to Chicago where she met Charles Rust, who invited her to join Catalyst, a Chicago African American community organization.

Fisk University.

African Americans--Study and teaching (higher).

African American universities and colleges.

Civil rights movements--Kentucky--Louisville.

Civil rights movements--Tennessee--Nashville.

Civil rights demonstrations--Tennessee--Nashville.
Mogey, John M.
Douglas, Aaron.
Hayden, Robert Earl.
Masuoka, Jitsuichi, 1903-.
Boston University.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_001_003, TRT: 0:28:25
2003/04/07

Carol Adams shares stories about her involvement with Catalyst, an African American community organization in Chicago. The group met weekly to discuss issues that members experienced at work. Adams speaks in depth about her doctoral work at the University of Chicago, where Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon was a classmate and friend. Adams' studies were informed by her interest in activism and her work as a research assistant for sociologist Horace R. Cayton. When he died suddenly in 1970, she decided not to return to the University of Chicago. Adams talks about her position as assistant director of the Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern Illinois University in 1968 where she developed a number of successful programs and key community partnerships. Adams also worked on family reunification and employment issues for newly-released female prisoners.

Chicago (Ill.)--Social Conditions.
University of Chicago.
Cayton, Horace R. (Horace Roscoe), 1903-1970.
African Americans--Study and teaching--Illinois--Chicago.
Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs
Northeastern Illinois University. Center for Inner City Studies

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_001_004, TRT: 0:20:50
2003/04/07

Carol Adams describes her position as the founding director of the Neighborhood Institute, a division of South Shore Bank, the nation's first development bank. She established several programs designed to promote cultural development and revitalization in Chicago. Adams talks about her return to academia in 1981 as the director of Loyola University's African American studies program where she brought speakers about the African American religious identity movement as well as an African American film festival. Adams discusses her visits to Ghana and Kenya as part of her graduate coursework at Union Graduate School. She discusses how she got her start serving as a grant proposal reader for several federal agencies. As a grant writer, she also conducted workshops on grant writing for artists.

African American faculty.
Community development--Illinois--Chicago.
African Americans--Study and teaching (Higher).

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_002_005, TRT: 0:26:51
2010/08/24

African American college teachers.
African Americans--Education (Higher).
African Americans--Study and teaching.
Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.

Loyola University of Chicago.
Chicago Housing Authority.
Public housing--Illinois--Chicago.
Chicago (Ill.)--Social conditions.
Inner cities--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_002_006, TRT: 0:31:25
2010/08/24

Chicago Housing Authority.
Public housing--Illinois--Chicago.
Inner cities--Illinois--Chicago.
Chicago (Ill.)--Social conditions.
House of Blues (Firm)--Endowments.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_002_007, TRT: 0:31:01
2010/08/24

African American college administrators.
Illinois. Dept. of Human Services.
Northeastern Illinois University. Center for Inner City Studies.
African American government executives--Illinois.
Illinois--Officials and employees.
House of Blues (Firm)--Endowments.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_002_008, TRT: 0:29:51
2010/08/24

Illinois. Dept. of Human Services.
Illinois--Officials and employees.
African American government executives--Illinois.
DuSable Museum of African-American History.
African American museums--Illinois--Chicago.
African American museum directors.
Burroughs, Margaret Taylor, 1915-2010.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol L. Adams, Section A2003_066_002_009, TRT: 0:20:25
2010/08/24

DuSable Museum of African-American History.
African American museum directors.
African American museums--Illinois--Chicago.
African American producers and directors.
African American names, Personal.