

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Paul J. King

PERSON

King, Paul J., 1938-

Alternative Names: Paul J. King;

Life Dates: September 6, 1938-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Contractor

Biographical Note

Contractor and CEO of UBM, Inc., Paul King was born September 6, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois. Raised in a business-minded family, King attended St. Anselm Elementary School. Graduating from Mayor Daley's alma mater, De La Salle High School, in 1956, King went on to the University of Chicago to study chemistry, the University of Illinois for construction management and pursued graduate studies in political science from Roosevelt University.

Working his way through college, King's part time paint contracting work exploded into a full time business. He then faced the reality that the city rarely awarded jobs to black contractors. Keenly aware that public contracts were necessary for growth, King began to organize with other black contractors. He became executive director of the United Builders Association of Chicago in 1969 and a national officer in the National Association of Minority Contractors. In association with the Builders Association of Chicago and The University of Illinois King developed two courses in construction management for minority contractors. He spearheaded two national meetings that involved hundreds of contractors and a working alliance with Congressman Parren Mitchell. As a faculty member of Advanced Management Research-International, King lectures on affirmative action issues. He has also been a contract compliance officer for the United States Department of Labor. Today, King is the Chairman and CEO of UBM Construction with over 100 employees and contracts worth up to a billion dollars. He is also chairman and founder of the O'Hare Development Group.

Traveling to twenty-four states and over forty cities to speak about the plight of minority contractors, King's economic and political views are published in Black Scholar, Emerge Magazine, and Black Enterprise. He is a lecturer at Roosevelt University in African Studies and contemporary black issues. King lives in Chicago with his wife, LoAnn.

Related Entries

De La Salle Institute [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Anselm's School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Chicago [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Roosevelt University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lecturer

UBM Construction [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to ?]

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Local President

National Association of Minority Contractors
[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

National Officer

Leadership of Greater Chicago [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member