# Overview of the Collection

**Repository:** The HistoryMakers®
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**Creator:**
Moore, Ralph G., 1949-

**Title:**
The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ralph G. Moore,

**Dates:**
August 9, 2004

**Bulk Dates:**
2004

**Physical Description:**
6 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:02:02).

**Abstract:**
Business consultant and business consulting chief executive Ralph G. Moore (1949 - ) founded Ralph G. Moore & Associates (RGMA) in 1979. Over the years, RGMA became one of the premier consulting firms for helping corporations diversify their supply chain. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 9, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

**Identification:**
A2004_121

**Language:**
The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Minority business consultant Ralph G. Moore was born in Evanston, Illinois on July 4, 1949. His mother, Alberta, worked in the post office, while his father, William, was a railroad worker. After graduating from Evanston Township High School in 1967, Moore attended Southern Illinois University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1971. The following year, he was awarded his CPA license.
After earning his bachelor’s degree, Moore took a position with accounting firm Arthur Andersen, where he remained until 1973. From there, he served as vice president for the Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Company and was controller for the Parker House Sausage Company. In 1979, Moore founded Ralph G. Moore & Associates (RGMA). Today, RGMA is one of the premier consulting firms for helping employers to diversify their suppliers. In addition, they consult government agencies with the development and implementation of Affirmative Action programs and help entrepreneurs raise capital.

In addition to his consulting work, Moore serves on the board of directors of several firms. He has also been a contributor to the *Harvard Business Review* and *MBE Magazine*. He is also a co-founder and the president of the Alliance of Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs. Since 1994, Moore has served as a trustee of the City Colleges of Chicago, and he is also a trustee of the University of Chicago Hospitals & Health System.

Moore’s numerous awards over the years include “Entrepreneur of the Year” from *Inc. Magazine* and Ernst & Young and the Governor’s Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year Award from former Illinois Governor George Ryan.

### Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ralph G. Moore was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 9, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Business consultant and business consulting chief executive Ralph G. Moore (1949 - ) founded Ralph G. Moore & Associates (RGMA) in 1979. Over the years, RGMA became one of the premier consulting firms for helping corporations diversify their supply chain.

### Restrictions

#### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

#### Restrictions on Use
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:

Moore, Ralph G., 1949-
Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Moore, Ralph G., 1949---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection
Occupations:

Business Consultant

Business Consulting Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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


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).

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.
Ralph G. Moore was born on July 4, 1949 in Evanston, Illinois. His mother, Alberta Cunningham, was from Weir, Mississippi. Like many in the Great Migration, she moved north in search of work and to escape the South. She settled in Chicago, where she worked as a domestic, then for the postal service until her retirement in 1977; she later worked briefly for McDonald’s. Moore’s father, William Eiland Moore, was from Louisville, Mississippi, twenty miles from Weir. He grew up close to his sister and like many of his siblings, left home to escape his father’s abuse. As a young man, he had an altercation with a white man in Florida, which led to him changing his name from Eiland to Moore. He eventually settled in Chicago, where he worked nights for the railroad. While growing up in Evanston, Moore loved the outdoors, bicycling and bird watching. He attended the all-black Foster School, then the more integrated Dewey Elementary School. At Evanston Township High School, he was frustrated with the teaching methods.

Ralph G. Moore was a confrontational and unmotivated student at Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Illinois. Although he focused more on social activities like pool and playing in a band on weeknights, his ACT score earned him admission to Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale in 1967. Moore had little interest in nearby Northwestern University and decided to follow his older brother to SIU. Moore arrived in Carbondale at a time when local movie theaters had been integrated only three years prior. Despite this, the school had a large black student body which outnumbered the student population of some historically black colleges and universities at the
time. At SIU, he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, which helped him improve academically; became lifelong friends with HistoryMaker Anthony “Tony” Preston Burroughs, and decided to study business. Moore also talks about the demographics of his high school and compares the histories of the African American and Jewish communities.

Ralph G. Moore excelled in his accounting class at Southern Illinois University, to the professor’s chagrin. As a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, he created a breakfast program modeled on the Black Panthers’, marched in Cairo, Illinois to protest employment discrimination, and held events such as Kappa Karnival and an arts festival in the nearby Marion prison. Moore helped his mother pay for his education by working with local minority businesses and playing in a band. After graduating, he accepted a job with accounting firm Arthur Andersen in 1971. At Arthur Andersen, he fought to advance past racial barriers, but ultimately decided to leave. He spent six months at the Chicago Board of Trade before beginning to work with Ben Duster at the Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Company in 1974. Moore joined Parker House Sausage Company as comptroller in 1976 and has been involved with a number of community organizations, including PUSH, Chicago United, and Habilitative Systems Incorporated.

Ralph G. Moore became Illinois’ 68th black certified public accountant in 1972; this small group of CPAs included his predecessors, HistoryMakers James Hill, Jr. and Lester McKeever. Since then, Moore has been involved with the National Association of Black Accountants and the formation of the National CPA Society. In 1979 he founded Ralph G. Moore & Associates to promote minority business development and help major companies attract and maintain supplier diversity. Major League Baseball was a large client for him, which he found personally significant due to his father’s love of
baseball. Moore was on the board of Habilitative Systems, Incorporated in Chicago, Illinois, an organization that provided social services to West Siders. He talks about the founder and director, Larry Byrd, who died from AIDS in 1989, and his successor, Donald Dew. Additionally, Moore served as a trustee for Chicago City Colleges and the University of Chicago Medical Center. Moore talks about his daughter and his road to fatherhood.

Video Oral History Interview with Ralph G. Moore, Section A2004_121_001_005, TRT: 0:29:54 2004/08/09

Ralph G. Moore’s company, Ralph G. Moore & Associates (RGMA), was the main training organization for the National Minority Supplier Development Council, which had 400 national members at the time of the interview. Moore has used RGMA to advance minority participation in the supply chain, which benefits both minority-owned and white-owned businesses. He talks about the importance of buying from companies that work with minority vendors. At Arthur Anderson in the 1970s, Moore encountered expectations for African American employees to subsume their identity, and he continues to see these same instances of racial disparity in the business world today. He comments on African Americans who do not hire other African Americans and reflects upon the importance of honoring the African American struggle and teaching black history to black youth. Moore describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community and reflects upon his opportunities, his hopes for the future and his legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Ralph G. Moore, Section A2004_121_001_006, TRT: 0:30:31 2004/08/09

Ralph G. Moore’s parents and brother were proud of his accomplishments from a young age. Moore’s father died in 1964 and his mother was still living at the time of the interview, albeit with Alzheimer’s disease. Moore describes how he would like to be remembered and narrates his photographs.