

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Walter Young

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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>	Young, Walter, 1934-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Walter Young,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 13, 2006 and October 12, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:37:51).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civil rights activist and dentist Dr. Walter Young (1934 - ) worked in the Civil Rights Movement in New Orleans with the All African Students Association, and later in Atlanta on issues of dental health. Young founded his Atlanta dental practice in 1978, and was owner and president of the Young International Development Corporation. Young was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2006 and October 12, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_115
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dentist and civil rights activist Dr. Walter Fuller Young was born on August 18, 1934, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Daisy Valentine Fuller Young and Andrew Jackson Young, a dentist. Young attended Valeda C. Jones School with his brother Andrew Young. He later attended Gilbert Academy and then went on to attend and graduate from Princeton High School in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1951. Young earned his B.A. degree from Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio in 1955. Following in his father's footsteps, Young studied dentistry at Howard University Dental School.

After a stint as a dentist in the United States Navy, Young returned to New Orleans, where his father had practiced, established his dental practice and taught at Dillard University. At the same time, Young became an active supporter of the All African Students Association's lunch counter sit-ins at New Orleans' downtown Woolworth's and at other New Orleans businesses from 1961 to 1964. During that same period, Young was introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by his brother, SCLC's Rev. Andrew Young. Moving to Atlanta in 1978, Young joined his brother and worked to address the issues of dental health maintenance and the establishment of dental programs in schools, churches and organizations in the Atlanta area. Young's dental practice has been active in the same location for twenty-eight years. He is a member of the North Georgia Dental Society and the American Dental Association. Young is owner and president of Young International Development Corporation and serves as a director of Jamaica Communications, Datacom International, Inc., and Health Management Decisions.

As a member of the City of Atlanta Blue Ribbon Committee on Equal Business Opportunity, Young is involved in a number of civic and community programs. He is a consultant to the Osaka American Club of Japan, American Computer Technology in Atlanta, Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah, and Grady Healthcare in Atlanta. Possessing a keen interest in African American history, Young is honorary consul general for Liberia and has traveled

extensively on the African continent. In 2004, Atlanta's Southwest YMCA was named for Young and his brother, Andrew.

Young is married to event planner, Sonjia Young, and is father to five children.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Walter Young was conducted by Denise Gines and Larry Crowe on December 13, 2006 and October 12, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist and dentist Dr. Walter Young (1934 - ) worked in the Civil Rights Movement in New Orleans with the All African Students Association, and later in Atlanta on issues of dental health. Young founded his Atlanta dental practice in 1978, and was owner and president of the Young International Development Corporation.

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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:

Young, Walter, 1934-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Young, Walter, 1934- --Interviews

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African American dentists--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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African American civil rights workers--Interviews

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African American executives--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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Community health aides--Georgia--Atlanta--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:**

Dentist

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MedicalMakers

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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 Dr. Walter Young, December 13, 2006 and October 12, 2006. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 Dr. Walter Young, Section A2006\_115\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:10  
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Dr. Walter Young was born on August 18, 1934 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Daisy Fuller Young and Andrew Young, Sr. Born a slave, his maternal great-grandmother was freed around the time of the Civil War. During the Great Depression, Young's maternal grandmother, Louisa Czarnowski Fuller, fed the homeless, and adopted poor children. One adopted son later left the family to pass as white, and worked at Rubensteins clothing store. Young's mother was born around 1900. She attended Straight College in New Orleans, then taught at Albert Wicker Elementary School. Born in Franklin, Louisiana, Young's father played baseball in the Canadian League to pay his tuition at Howard University College of Dentistry. Young's parents married around 1929. They had two children, Young and his brother, Andrew Young. During the Great Depression, the family was supported financially by his maternal uncle, Walter Fuller. As a child, Young recalls riding the streetcar on Canal Street, and walking around his diverse neighborhood.

African American dentists--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

African American civil rights workers--Interviews.

African American executives--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

Community health aides--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Walter Young, Section A2006\_115\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:01  
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Dr. Walter Young was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he attended Mardi Gras parades, and heard Mahalia Jackson and Marion Anderson sing. His father, Andrew Young, Sr., belonged to the Osceola Five singing group. His father's dental patients included Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, and Sam Rayburn. As a student at Valena C. Jones School, where fights among students were so common that the school was nicknamed the "Bucket of Blood," Young took boxing lessons to defend himself. He loved sports, and his favorite subjects were math and history. Young recalls visiting family on Rampart Street, then one of New Orleans' most dangerous areas, and traveling to New York City with his brother, Andrew Young. After eighth grade, he was sent to New Jersey to live with a family friend, Howard Waxwood, Sr., and attend Princeton High School. There, Young ran track, and excelled in physics. He graduated in 1951, and enrolled at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, the alma mater of his idol, Harrison Dillard.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Walter Young, Section A2006\_115\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:40  
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Dr. Walter Young attended Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where he ran track, and joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Upon graduating in 1955, he

applied to dental school, and was accepted by every school except for the segregated Louisiana State University School of Dentistry. Young attended Howard University College of Dentistry, where his instructors included William Montague Cobb, Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. and university librarian Joseph Reason. After obtaining his degree, he returned to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he was barred from voting due to his race. Young worked for Dillard University's All African Students Union of the Americas, but found that New Orleans' black community lacked support for the Civil Rights Movement. He moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he opened a dental practice, and befriended the King family. Young organized for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference until Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death. In 1985, Young became an honorary consul for Liberia.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Walter Young, Section A2006\_115\_002\_004, TRT: 0:29:20  
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Dr. Walter Young grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he helped his father, Andrew Young, Sr., run a dental practice. He and his brother, Andrew Young, frequented the Dryades Street YMCA in New Orleans, and the Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA was later named in their honor in Atlanta, Georgia. During the 1950s, Young was commissioned as a U.S. Navy officer, and served for several years. Afterwards, he returned to New Orleans, and organized demonstrations of the All African Students Union at Dillard University. Young was recruited by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. to move to Atlanta and organize the Poor People's Campaign. He collaborated with Hosea Williams, James Forman and Mary Hamilton Wesley. He recalls the Atlanta Missing and Murdered Children cases of the early 1980s. In 1985, Young became the honorary consul general for Liberia, and served in that role for several decades. He worked with presidents Charles Taylor and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and aided Liberian immigrants in the United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Walter Young, Section A2006\_115\_002\_005, TRT: 0:30:10  
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Dr. Walter Young opened his dental practice in Atlanta, Georgia in 1970, and became active in local civic organizations like Cascade Business and Merchants Association, the YMCA and 100 Black Men. He participated in voter registration efforts for Atlanta mayors like Maynard Jackson, Bill Campbell and his brother, Andrew Young, as well as Georgia's Governor Roy Barnes and President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. As honorary consul general to Liberia, Young's duties included helping African athletes at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, and advocating for Liberians facing immigration issues in the United States. He talks about how immigration laws became more restrictive during President George Walker Bush's administration. Young reflects upon the increasing number of foreign owned businesses in the African American community. He describes his hopes and concerns for the United States, and how he would like to be remembered. Young also narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Walter Young, Section A2006\_115\_002\_006, TRT: 0:13:30  
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Dr. Walter Young narrates his photographs.