



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joyce F. Brown

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Joyce F. Brown
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown,
Dates:	June 26, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	6 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:35:30).
Abstract:	University president Joyce F. Brown (1947 -) is the first African American president of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. She was the former Dean, Acting President and Vice Chancellor for Urban Affairs and Development at Baruch College. In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Brown is the former Deputy Mayor for Public and Community Affairs of New York City. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 26, 2007, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_188
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

University president Dr. Joyce F. Brown was born on July 7, 1947 in New York City. Brown attended New York City Catholic schools. She later attended Marymount College where she earned her B.A. degree in psychology in 1968. Following her undergraduate education, Brown enrolled in New York University, earning her M.A. degree in counseling psychology in 1971 and her Ph.D. in 1980. Brown worked at Borough of Manhattan Community College while simultaneously receiving her advanced degrees in counseling psychology. She served as Director of Instructional Testing and Research, Coordinator of Community Education Projects and the Director of Paraprofessional Teacher Education Program during her tenure at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

In 1983, Brown married civic leader H. Carl McCall. That same year, she was hired as Dean at Bernard M. Baruch College of The City University of New York, where she was in charge of Urban Affairs until 1987. Her other positions at The City University of New York included Acting President of Bernard M. Baruch College; Vice Chancellor for Urban Affairs and Development and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Urban Programs. In 1987, Brown served on the commission for the Task Force report, "The Black Family in New York State: Current Crisis/Recent Trends." That same year, she became the Director of Boys Harbor Inc., an organization that was established to empower children through education, cultural enrichment and social services. In 1990, Brown earned a certificate from the Educational Management Institute at Harvard University. In 1993, she was appointed Deputy Mayor for Public and Community Affairs by then Mayor David Dinkins during his re-election. After Dinkin's mayoral loss in 1994, Brown became a Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Graduate School for The City University of New York from 1994 to 1998, where she continues to serve as professor emerita.

In 1998, Brown was the first African American and first woman to be appointed as the President of the Fashion Institute of Technology, a specialized college of art and design in New York City. Brown is a member of several boards and institutions including Linens-N-Things, Polo Ralph Lauren, Neuberger Berman, Paxar Corporation, the United States Enrichment Corporation, member of the Warm Up America Foundation, former trustee of Marymount College, and a former member of the Metropolitan Chapter of The Links.

Joyce Brown was interviewed by "The HistoryMakers" on June 26, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joyce F. Brown was conducted by Adrienne Jones on June 26, 2007, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 6 Betacam SP videocassettes. University president Joyce F. Brown (1947 -) is the first African American president of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. She was the former Dean, Acting President and Vice Chancellor for Urban Affairs and Development at Baruch College. In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Brown is the former Deputy Mayor for Public and Community Affairs of New York City.

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:

Joyce F. Brown

Jones, Adrienne (Interviewer)

Burghelea, Neculai (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Joyce F. Brown--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Fashion Institute of Technology (New York, N.Y.)

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 Joyce F. Brown, June 26, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/9/2011 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, June 26, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_001, TRT: 0:30:16
2007/06/26

Joyce Brown begins the interview by discussing her family history. Brown's mother, Joyce Brown, and father, Robert Brown, were born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her family moved to New York, New York as a part of the Great Migration. Brown's mother was a dancer at the Cotton Club in Harlem, a night club that featured African American dancers. She was also the understudy for Lena Horne. Brown's father was a performer and toured The United States with jazz musician Jimmie Lunceford. Brown is of mixed race. She describes growing up in New York City on 141st Street and Convent Alley. Her childhood home was near The City College on New York.

African American families--New York (State)--New York
Migration, Internal--United States

African Americans in the performing arts--United States

Social life and customs--New York (State)--New York

Racially mixed people--America

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_002, TRT: 0:29:33
2007/06/26

Joyce Brown discusses her father's business ventures. Both of Brown's parents were disciplinarians. She had a strict curfew and was required to always inform her parents of her whereabouts. She and her family attended Catholic Church services. Brown's parents stressed the importance of going to college. While in high school, Brown decided that she wanted to study psychology in college. She attended Marymount University where she earned her B.A. degree. By her senior year of college, Brown knew that she wanted to get her Ph.D degree so that she could start a private practice. She attended New York University (NYU) for graduate school during the civil rights movement. She recalls the emotional atmosphere on campus when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Brown discusses the timeline of her promotions at The City University of New York (CUNY).

African American fathers

African American parents--New York.

Education, Higher--Virginia--Arlington.

Civil rights movement--New York

King, Martin Luther,--Jr.,--1929-1968--Assassination

Marymount University--Students.

New York University--Students

Catholic Church--Membership.

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_003, TRT: 0:29:01
2007/06/26

Joyce Brown discusses her career at The City University of New York (CUNY). Brown was active in South Africa when Mandela was in the process of being freed from prison. The City University of New York wanted to provide South African black students the opportunity to intern in New York City. Brown discusses becoming the president of Baruch College, one of the ten senior colleges of CUNY. In 1993, Brown was appointed Deputy Mayor of Public and Community Affairs of New York City. She was appointed to this position by then New York City Mayor David Dinkins. Brown describes the

position of Deputy Mayor as being chaotic.

City University of New York--Faculty

Apartheid.

City University of New York. Bernard M. Baruch College--Faculty

New York (N.Y.). Deputy Mayor

Dinkins, David N.

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_004, TRT: 0:30:19
2007/06/26

Joyce Brown discusses working with Mayor David Dinkins, the first African American mayor of New York City. She recalls the emotional atmosphere surrounding the Crown Heights Riots and the criticism Mayor Dunkin received for not handling the situation effectively. Brown was hired as a professor at The City University of New York. She believes this position was her chance to become invested in a university's mission. Although Brown was invested in the mission of the university, she eventually left education and went back to administrative positions. Brown was hired as the president of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. She was the first African American and the first female to hold this position. While working as the acting president, Brown expanded FIT to include more variety in the majors offered. She disputed the rumor that she received the FIT position due to her husband H. Carl McCall's political clout.

Dinkins, David N.

African American mayors--New York (State)--New York.

Riots--Crown Heights (New York, N.Y.).

Fashion Institute of Technology (New York, N.Y.)--Faculty

City council members--Massachusetts--Boston--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_005, TRT: 0:29:46
2007/06/26

Joyce Brown discusses how she met her husband H. Carl McCall. Brown and McCall met while they were attending the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus in Washington D.C. Brown's husband is still involved in political campaigns, an aspect of his life she finds very disruptive although she does not want to stifle her husband's political career. She lists her current board memberships and non-profit organizations. She currently sits on the corporate board of Polo Ralph Lauren; a company that she believes is doing very well.

African American couples

African American politicians

McCall, Carl H.

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_006, TRT: 0:06:35
2007/06/26

Joyce Brown narrates a collection of photographs.

Photos