

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:	Brown, F, Joyce, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown,
Dates:	June 26, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:35:28).
Abstract:	University president Joyce F. Brown (1947 -) was the first African American president of the Fashion Institute of Technology. She was the former dean, acting president and Vice Chancellor for Urban Affairs and Development at Baruch College; and 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 Betacame SP videocassettes. University president Joyce F. Brown (1947 -) was the first African American president of the Fashion Institute of Technology. She was the former dean, acting president and Vice Chancellor for Urban Affairs and Development at Baruch College; and 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:

Brown, F, Joyce, 1947-

Jones, Adrienne (Interviewer)

Burghelea, Neculai (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brown, F, Joyce, 1947---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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

Occupations:

University President

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 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).

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

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_001, TRT: 0:30:14 ?

Joyce F. Brown was born on July 7, 1947 in New York City to Joyce Cappie Brown and Robert Brown. Brown's maternal great-grandmother was the daughter of a music teacher, and had ancestors in Texas. She moved frequently; and, similarly, Brown's mother and grandmother relocated from New Orleans, Louisiana to Chicago, Illinois, before settling in New York City. There, Brown's grandmother owned a successful garment factory on 42nd Street, while Brown's mother danced at the Cotton Club in Harlem. Brown's father also worked in show business, travelling with jazz musician Jimmie Lunceford's band. When Brown was born, her mother stopped dancing, and she and Brown's father focused on supporting their family. Brown grew up on Convent Avenue in New York City's Harlem neighborhood, near the City College of New York (CCNY). She began kindergarten at the High School of Music and Art, and attended concerts at CCNY's Lewisohn Stadium. On the weekends, her family visited Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh, 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--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Joyce F. Brown, Section A2007_188_001_002, TRT: 0:29:33 ?

Joyce F. Brown and her sister, Donna Levy Wray, grew up in New York City, where their father, Robert Brown, owned a laundromat, and later worked for the U.S. Post Office Department; and their mother, Joyce Cappie Brown, was an administrator at the New York City Housing Authority. As a girl, Brown enjoyed reading and writing, and aspired to become a psychologist. She attended the Our Lady of Lourdes School, and graduated from the Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary. She then matriculated at Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. After earning her degree, Brown joined her friends on a summer road trip to California, and then enrolled in a graduate program at New York University. During her studies, Brown also worked full-time in the City University of New York's (CUNY) financial aid office. She was promoted to CUNY's central office; and, later in her career, served as the acting president of New York City's Baruch College, where she helped develop a high school outreach program.

African American fathers.

African American parents--New York (State).

Education, Higher--Virginia--Arlington.

Civil rights movements--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 ?

Joyce F. Brown began her career in university administration at the City University of New York (CUNY). While working at CUNY's central office under Chancellor Robert Joseph Kibbee, she assisted in the creation of an alternative high school program. Brown went on to serve as acting president of CUNY's Baruch College. In this role, she instituted the college's South African business program that facilitated educational opportunities for South African businesspeople who were limited by apartheid. During this period, Brown

aspired to become a college president. At the time of Mayor David N. Dinkins' 1993 reelection campaign, she took a one-year leave of absence from CUNY to serve as his deputy mayor. She recalls her busy schedule, and talks about her responsibility to the greater community. Upon returning to CUNY, she joined the Graduate Center faculty, but she found that she preferred administrative work to teaching. At this point in the interview, Brown reflects upon the changes in her career aspirations.

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 ?

Joyce F. Brown served as New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins' deputy mayor in 1993, the final year of his term. At this point in the interview, she talks about Mayor Dinkins' administration, including the criticism against him. Upon returning to the City University of New York, Brown joined the faculty of the Graduate Center, where she developed a clinical psychology course about the availability of mental health resources. In 1998, she became the first African American female president of New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), a member of the State University of New York System. At the time of her appointment, Brown encountered challenges in the media because of her husband's, H. Carl McCall's political career as a New York State gubernatorial candidate. During Brown's presidential tenure at FIT, she facilitated the expansion of the college's housing and curriculum. In addition, Brown reflects upon how her training in psychology informed her career as a university administrator.

Dinkins, David N.

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

Riots--New York (State)--New York.

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 ?

Joyce F. Brown became the president of New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in 1998. She describes the school's undergraduate level academic programs, which included computer animation, business and marketing. At the time of the interview, the school was considering plans for a master's degree program in fashion design. She also describes opportunities for FIT's students of color who are often recruited by minority industry professionals. In addition, she served on numerous corporate and non-profit boards like the Boys and Girls Harbor, Inc.; Polo, Ralph Lauren; the Central Park Conservancy; and the United States Enrichment Corporation. Brown met her husband, New York State Senator H. Carl McCall, at a New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc. conference in Washington, D.C. She talks about her husband's political career, including its impact on their marriage. Brown reflects upon her legacy, and concludes this part of the interview by narrating her photographs.

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 ?

Joyce F. Brown narrates her photographs.

Photos