

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with H. Melvin Ming

PERSON

Ming, H. Melvin, 1944-

Alternative Names: H. Melvin Ming;

Life Dates: August 22, 1944-

Place of Birth: Pembroke, Bermuda, Bermuda

Occupations: Media Executive

Biographical Note

Corporate media executive H. Melvin Ming was born Hilton Austin Melvin Ming in Hamilton, Bermuda. He is one of three sons of Hester and Calvin Ming. After completing his early education in Bermuda, Ming moved to the United States and graduated with his B.A. degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1967.

Upon graduation, Ming was hired as an Auditor and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) for the accounting firm Coopers Lybrand (PricewaterhouseCoopers) in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. In 1973, at the age

of twenty-nine, Ming became only the seventh African American to achieve professional standing as a CPA in Pennsylvania. After a successful twelve year tenure at Coopers Lybrand, Ming left to become the Assistant Director for East of the River Health Association, a primary care Community Health Center in Southeast Washington, D.C. Ming then served for two years as Vice President, Finance and Administration, for the National Urban Coalition, an urban policy analysis research non-profit corporation. He then led a successful financial turn-around of National Public Radio (NPR) in Washington, D.C. Ming went on to lead three more major financial restructurings at Channel Thirteen/WNET in New York, WQED in Pittsburgh and the Museum of Television and Radio in New York and Los Angeles. In 1999, Ming became the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Sesame Workshop in New York, the creators of the popular children's television show Sesame Street. In 2002, Ming became Chief Operating Officer at Sesame Workshop. In 2006, Ming became the Director of Westwood, Inc., the largest independent producer and distributor of programming for commercial radio in the nation.

Ming serves on boards including the trustee of Regional Conferences Retirement Board, where he serves as one of three outside directors overseeing the \$94 million retirement fund; First Children Finance, a non-profit organization created to meet the growing demand for quality early care and education, especially in low-income communities; and Atlantic Union College, a liberal arts college of 600 students located in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Ming was married in 1972 and has two children, Calvin Ming, thirty-five, and Jerilynne Ming, thirty-four. He also has two grandchildren, Carina and Cameron Ming.

Ming was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 6, 2008.

Related Entries

Victor Scott Primary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Berkeley Institute [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Temple University High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Temple University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

National Urban Coalition [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

cfo

WNET-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

CFO

WQED [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

cfo

Museum of Television and Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

cfo

Sesame Workshop [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

COO

**PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP (formerly Coopers
and Lybrand)** [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1977]

Accountant

PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP (formerly Coopers and Lybrand) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1980]

Accountant

East of the River Health Clinic [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

CFO

National Public Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to ?]

cfo

National Association of Black Accountants [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association of Black Accountants [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Chapter President