

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael Evans Carter

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carter, Michael Evans
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Michael Evans Carter,
Dates:	November 19, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:10:10).
Abstract:	Nonprofit chief executive and educator Michael Evans Carter (1962 -) is CEO of the V.E. Carter Development Group in Milwaukee, which operates the V.E. Carter Development Center, offering social service programs to central-city residents, and a K-5 charter school, the Carter School of Excellence. Carter Group programs also include two north side drop-in child care centers and case management services for nonviolent offenders. Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 19, 2008, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_137
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Michael Evans Carter, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of V.E. Carter Development Group, was born on April 12, 1962, to Lorraine Peters Carter and Veleidis Edwin Carter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Carter graduated from the University School of Milwaukee in 1980. He received his B.A. degree in television production and business administration from Howard University in 1985.

While at Howard University, Carter founded a video production company. He received a SIBA award for an interview with Jesse Jackson, Sr. After college, he returned to Milwaukee to apply his television production skills to aid the educational mission of the V.E. Carter Development Center, which was founded by his parents in 1971. Through Carter Educational Systems, a subsidiary of Carter Development Group, Carter produced a series of video tapes teaching math teachers how to teach math to children as well as two video series teaching the Swahili and Yoruba languages to children. Carter also worked as a cameraman for the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team. Carter moved to Detroit in 1990s and worked for the Detroit Cable Commission as a producer and director during the Dennis Archer administration. In 1994, Carter began working as an executive assistant to his mother at V.E. Carter Development Center. He also served as the organization's facilities and building manager. Carter became CEO of V.E. Carter Development Group when his mother passed away in 2006. V.E. Carter Development Group operates the center along with a K-5 charter school, the Carter School of Excellence, and offers social service programs to central-city residents. The V.E. Carter Development Group is a partner with the Milwaukee Public School System. Carter Group programs also include two north side drop-in child care centers and case management services for non-violent offenders.

Carter is married to Lori Carter. They have two children: a son Courtney, and a daughter Micah.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Michael Evans Carter was conducted by Crowe, Larry on November 19, 2008, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Nonprofit chief executive and educator Michael Evans Carter (1962 -) is CEO of the V.E. Carter Development Group in Milwaukee, which operates the V.E. Carter Development Center, offering social service programs to central-city residents, and a K-5 charter school, the Carter School of Excellence. Carter Group programs also include two north side drop-in child care centers and case management services for nonviolent offenders.

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:

Michael Evans Carter

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Michael Evans Carter--Interviews

African American executives--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews

African American school principals--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews

African American social workers--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Michael Evans Carter, November 19, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/12/2012 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, November 19, 2008

Video Oral History Interview with Michael Evans Carter, Section A2008_137_001_001, TRT: 0:28:53 2008/11/19

Michael Evans Carter was born April 12th, 1962 to Lorraine Peters Carter and Veledis Edwin Carter. Lorraine was born in Omaha, Nebraska in the late 1920s or early 1930s on July 5th. Lorraine was a very intelligent girl and as an adult was excited to make children learn. Veledis Edwin Carter was born on February 29, 1921 [1924] in Pikeville, Kentucky. Veledis was drafted at 17 by the United States Army and served in Africa, Italy, and Western Europe as an electrician. He attended Tennessee State on the GI Bill and became a special education teacher. Lorraine taught in Chicago but left for Milwaukee for higher pay. Veledis answered an announcement for work at International Harvester before he joined Milwaukee Public Schools. They met there as teachers and married in June, 1961.

World War, 1939-1945--African Americans.

Family--History.

African American educators.

Video Oral History Interview with Michael Evans Carter, Section A2008_137_001_002, TRT: 0:30:42 2008/11/19

Michael Carter believes he takes after his father Veledis' strong sense of humor and no-nonsense business approach and his mother Lorraine's relatability. Carter received a lot of individual education from his parents including flashcards, daily homework assignments, and spelling and math on days he had no schoolwork. From K through 12 Carter attended the private University School of Milwaukee because his parents, having left the public schools to open their own in 1972, understood the flaws of the system. Their school was originally named Carter Child Development Center; Carter believes his parents coined the phrase "child development" rather than "day care" in order to emphasize the educational aspect. Carter was aware of the civil rights movement but had an incomplete understanding of events surrounding Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death. Carter came of age at a time when blacks were depicted in more non-stereotypical roles on television. Carter believes TV reflects and instills values of their times and reveal values gaps between generations.

Mass media--social aspects--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Michael Evans Carter, Section A2008_137_001_003, TRT: 0:29:39 2008/11/19

Michael Carter had a natural skating talent and learned camaraderie and discipline; he only drew penalties when he was called racial names. Carter fondly enjoyed the history and soccer coach who talked about contemporary issues. Barack Obama's election confirmed his suspicion that older generations of Americans would not vote against Obama strictly because of his race. By his senior year, Carter envisioned himself working in film or television. Carter looked to the historically black colleges to further his exposure to black culture. At Howard he worked at WHUT and formed a video production company and club with a classmate; they interviewed Rev. Jesse Jackson, Bootsie Collins, Rick James, James Brown, Eddie Murphy, Phyllis Hyman, Teena Marie, and others. Carter attended several speeches given by Louis Farrakhan including the one where he referred to the Jewish religion as a gutter religion; Carter was upset that the media ignored the greater context of the speech. One of Carter's great mentors was Haile Gerima who taught the basic film classes.

Farrakhan, Louis.

Cheek, James E.

Howard University Television.

Video Oral History Interview with Michael Evans Carter, Section A2008_137_001_004, TRT: 0:29:15 2008/11/19

Michael Carter graduated from Howard in 1985 with a degree in television production and a minor in business administration. He moved back to Milwaukee and organized the company Carter Educational Systems and created a series of videos for Pre-K instructors but the business model was not sustainable. Carter was cameraman for the Bradley Center and in 1994 he was given a job in Detroit. He was a producer/director for the Cable Commission, which produced city programming. In 1995, his mother and the CEO of V.E. Carter Development Group hired him as executive assistant and building manager to groom him for eventual administration of the Group. The Development Group distinguishes itself by serving the whole family to teach parents child rearing by demonstration and providing resources as partners in child development. Carter's philosophy on children is that they are the future. The Group maintains partnerships with Milwaukee Public Schools and the University School of Milwaukee.

Language and languages--Study and teaching

Video Oral History Interview with Michael Evans Carter, Section A2008_137_001_005, TRT: 0:11:41 2008/11/19

In hindsight Michael Carter regrets his decision in the 1980s to go into television. Although television was his ambition at the time, he should have worked in the family business and influenced the school's direction sooner. Carter believes that youth are in a hole as far as discipline and direction, which were embedded in his own upbringing but not reinforced in the present day. The draft was a cloud hanging over the lives of many in his childhood and, in retrospect, may be an opportunity for black youths to achieve discipline. Carter's wife of eight years serves as the philanthropy director who handles marketing, administration, and other activities.

Draft--United States--1960-1970.