

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Artis Hampshire-Cowan

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Hampshire-Cowan, Artis, 1955- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, |
| Dates: | June 27, 2010 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2010 |
| Physical Description: | 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:53:13). |
| Abstract: | Academic administrator Artis Hampshire-Cowan (1955 -) served as vice president for human resource management, senior vice president and acting president at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She also acted as general counsel of the RFK Stadium authority, and special counsel to Wayne Curry. Hampshire-Cowan was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 27, 2010, in Mitchellville, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2010_060 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Academic administrator Artis Hampshire-Cowan was born in Mobile, Alabama on February 5, 1955. In 1976, she graduated with honors from Morris Brown College with her B.A. degree in Business Management. Three years later, she received her J.D. degree from Temple University Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduation, she served as Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, whereupon she moved to Washington, D.C. For twelve years, Hampshire-Cowan worked with the government of the District of Columbia. She held such positions

as Congressional lobbyist with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations; Chief of the Office of Compliance at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs; Historic Preservation Development Expert; and Senior Advisor/Attorney Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and City Administrator. Hampshire-Cowan also served as General Counsel at RFK Stadium; she served as in-house counsel and the chief negotiator for several sports initiatives including the Redskins/District proposal to construct a new Redskins stadium in the District of Columbia and subsequently served as Special Counsel to County Executive Wayne Curry's successful construction of the Redskins Stadium in Prince George's County, Maryland.

In 1991, Hampshire-Cowan co-founded and later served as president of Bright Beginnings, an organization that aims to meet the needs of homeless children by providing families with childcare and on-site therapeutic and family support services. In 1994, Hampshire-Cowan joined the Board and also served as president (2005-2007) of the Prince George's Community Foundation, which supports and grants funds to the County's nonprofit organizations. Hampshire-Cowan, a graduate from the Stephen Covey Leadership Center, is a certified trainer for the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Principle Centered Leadership, and First Things First. She has provided training for boards of directors and executive management in higher education, business, government, and nonprofit community-based organizations. Currently, Hampshire-Cowan is Senior Vice President and Secretary of Howard University. In this role, she serves as corporate secretary of the University; manages the affairs of Howard's Board of Trustees; and plans and manages all official functions of the University, including Opening Convocation, Charter Day, and Commencement.

In 1993, Hampshire-Cowan served as Prince George's County Executive appointee on Superintendent Selection Committee. In 1994 and 1998, she Co-Chaired Prince George's County Executive's 1994 Education Transition Committee. In 1998, Hampshire-Cowan was appointed by Governor Glendening as Chairperson, Management Oversight Panel, Prince George's County Public Schools. Hampshire-Cowan was granted the Power 150—People Who Make Things Happen Award by the *Washingtonian Magazine* in 2007 and the Women Who Mean Business Award by the *Washington Business Journal* in 2008. In 2009, Hampshire-Cowan was featured in the *Washingtonian Magazine's* 100 Most Powerful Women, and in 2010, she was named to the 2010 Prince George's Suite Top 100 "Who's Who of Prince George's County and Who's Who in Black Metropolitan Washington, DC." Hampshire-Cowan currently resides in Mitchellville, Maryland, with her husband, Ernest. They have two children, Carri and Ernest, Jr.

Artis Hampshire-Cowan was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 27, 2010.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 27, 2010, in Mitchellville, Maryland, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Academic administrator Artis Hampshire-Cowan (1955 -) served as vice president for human resource management, senior vice president and acting president at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She also acted as general counsel of the RFK Stadium authority, and special counsel to Wayne Curry.

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:

Hampshire-Cowan, Artis, 1955-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hampshire-Cowan, Artis, 1955---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

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 Artis Hampshire-Cowan, June 27, 2010. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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 Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_001, TRT: 0:28:35 2010/06/27

Artis Hampshire-Cowan was born on February 5, 1955 in Mobile, Alabama to Clara Torrance Hampshire and John Hampshire, Sr. After emancipation, her paternal ancestors left Virginia in search of a daughter who had been enslaved in New Orleans, Louisiana. They ultimately settled in Mobile, as they lacked the funds to continue the journey by ferry. Hampshire-Cowan's father was born in 1917 in Carlton, Alabama, where his family members were landowning farmers. He went on to work on the railroad and as a mechanic. Her mother was born in 1921

in Marengo County, Alabama, and later joined her uncle's household in the Crichton section of Mobile, where she worked as a domestic. A caring mother, she taught her six children the importance of education; and was active with the Parent Teacher Association, the high school band booster club and Mobile's Greater Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church. Hampshire-Cowan remembers attending baseball games with her father, and describes her brothers and sisters.

Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_002, TRT: 0:28:24 2010/06/27

Artis Hampshire-Cowan grew up in Mobile, Alabama. With her family, she participated in the city's annual Mardi Gras festival, and frequented the beaches along Alabama's Gulf Coast, including Bayou La Batre and Mon Louis Island. Hampshire-Cowan began her education at a one-room schoolhouse, where she learned strict discipline. After Hampshire-Cowan completed kindergarten, her parents decided to enroll her at the private Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School in Mobile, rather than sending her to the overcrowded all-black public school, which offered only half-day sessions. At this point in the interview, Hampshire-Cowan reflects upon the impact of her Lutheran education, and recalls attending the Trinity Lutheran Church with her siblings. She also took part in the weekly meetings of the Baptist Training Union, as her parents were Baptist. In addition, Hampshire-Cowan describes her early experiences of segregation, and remembers the assault of her paternal uncle, Ben Hampshire, by police officers in Mobile.

Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_003, TRT: 0:28:30 2010/06/27

Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_004, TRT: 0:28:04 2010/06/27

Artis Hampshire-Cowan attended Temple University Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There, she studied under professors like Dolores K. Sloviter and Carl Singley, who was a native of Alabama. She also joined the Black American Law Students Association, and was influenced by deputy dean H. Patrick Swygert, who

worked to diversify the student body. Hampshire-Cowan met her husband, Ernest Cowan, Sr., while working as an intern at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. After earning a law degree in 1979, she served for one year as an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia, and then joined the administration of Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry. She served as general counsel of the stadium authority, which was responsible for the development of the Jack Kent Cooke Stadium. Hampshire-Cowan reflects upon Mayor Barry's achievements, as well as the responsibilities of elected officials. She also recalls her trip to Ghana in 1979, which was cut short by Jerry Rawlings' coup d'etat.

Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_005, TRT: 0:28:52 2010/06/27

Artis Hampshire-Cowan belonged to the Junior League of Washington, through which she became a founding board member of Bright Beginnings, a social service organization that assisted homeless families in Washington, D.C. After moving to Prince George's County, Maryland, she served as special counsel to county executive Wayne Curry, who also appointed her to a panel responsible for improving the Prince George's County Public Schools. In 1992, Hampshire-Cowan joined the administration of Howard University under President Franklyn Jenifer; and, two years later, was promoted to the vice presidency of human resources. At this time, Joyce Ladner was named interim president, and served until the election of H. Patrick Swygert in 1995. During Hampshire-Cowan's tenure at Howard University, her duties included recruiting board members and coordinating high profile social events. She talks about the importance of building relationships in the workplace, and shares the career advice she imparted to her daughter.

Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_006, TRT: 0:21:08 2010/06/27

Artis Hampshire-Cowan's interest in the area of motivational speaking came from her civic engagement with organizations like the Junior League of Washington and her administrative career at Howard University. She founded the Leverage Leadership Group, LLC, a training

and consulting firm that worked mostly with nonprofit organizations. She also served on the Presidential Rank Review Board during the administration of President Bill Clinton, and on the Foreign Service Selection Board in 2006. Hampshire-Cowan talks about her hopes for the African American community at large and in Prince George's County, Maryland. She also reflects upon her legacy and how she would like to be remembered, and her advice for young professional women. Additionally, she talks about her plans for the future, and her father, John Hampshire, Sr.'s support. With her husband, Ernest Cowan, Sr., Hampshire-Cowan had two children, Carri Cowan and Ernest Cowan, Jr., both of whom attended Howard University.

Video Oral History Interview with Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Section A2010_060_001_007, TRT: 0:09:40 2010/06/27

Artis Hampshire-Cowan narrates her photographs.