

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carla Hayden

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Hayden, Carla
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 16, 2010
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2010
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:09:06).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Library director Carla Hayden (1952 - ) has served numerous library systems and fought for civil liberties and freedom of information. Hayden was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 16, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2010_082
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Library Director and Administrator Carla Hayden was born on August 10, 1952. She received her B.A. degree from Roosevelt University and began work as a library assistant at the Chicago Public Library in 1973. She later received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago's Graduate Library School.

She worked as library service coordinator for the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science. In 1991, she returned to Chicago where she worked as the Chicago Public Library System's deputy commissioner and chief librarian. She is also the second African American to become the executive director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, one of the oldest free libraries in the United States.

Hayden was elected president of the American Library Association in 2003. She succeeded in getting Attorney General John Ashcroft to declassify reports on the Act's provisions and eventually, through her efforts and the efforts of other civil liberties organizations, the section of the Act that allowed the F.B.I. to demand private individuals' library records was rescinded.

Hayden has continually championed the cause of civil liberties and freedom of information. She spearheaded the A.L.A.'s efforts to overturn legislation that forced all libraries receiving federal funding to install internet content filters on their computers. Eventually the Supreme Court upheld the right of adult library users to request the filter's deactivation, though they did not overturn the requirement that the filters be installed. Hayden has worked with the A.L.A. to publicize and uphold the right to deactivate the filter.

She has been honored with the Andrew White Medal by Loyola College, the President's Medal by Johns Hopkins University, and the Legacy of Literacy Award by the DuBois Circle of Baltimore. Hayden was named one of Ms. Magazine's 2003 Women of the Year and one of Maryland's Top 100 Women of Maryland. She is also the first African American to receive the Librarian of the Year Award from Library Journal Magazine. She is a member of the Boards of the Maryland African American Museum Corporation, Goucher College, Franklin and Eleanor

Roosevelt Institute and Library and Maryland Historical Society.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carla Hayden was conducted by Crowe, Larry on July 16, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 Betacam SP videocassettes. Library director Carla Hayden (1952 - ) has served numerous library systems and fought for civil liberties and freedom of information.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Hayden, Carla Diane

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hayden, Carla Diane--Interviews

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African American librarians—Illinois—Chicago--Interviews.

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African American librarians—Maryland—Baltimore--Interviews.

African American librarians.

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Enoch Pratt Free Library

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

EducationMakers

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## **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 Carla Hayden, July 16, 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 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).

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## **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.

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## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Series I: Original Interview Footage, July 16, 2010**

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_001, TRT: 0:03:36  
2010/07/16

Carla Hayden slates her interview and lists her favorites. Hayden was born on August 10, 1952 in Tallahassee, Florida to Colleen and Bruce Kennard Hayden, Jr. Colleen's mother and father owned a home in Helena, Arkansas and a farm outside of town. She had a half-sister from her mother's previous marriage to a white Mississippi steamboat captain. The Dowling family eventually moved to Champaign, Illinois and Colleen attended Millikin University. Bruce Hayden, Jr.'s side of the family has the most stories associated with slavery through his mother Myrtle. Their family story was chronicled in the 1953 book "It's Good to Be Black" by Ruby Berkley Goodwin. It was a very musical family. The Haydens moved to Springfield, Illinois when Bruce was a teenager. He later attended Millikin. Hayden was a bright child and skipped the first grade. She enjoyed her Queens New York elementary school library.

Children of divorced parents.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University--Faculty

Sex discrimination against men--Social aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:39  
2010/07/16

Carla Hayden's parents Bruce and Colleen met while attending Millikin University. Bruce was hired by the music department at Florida A&M during the tenure of Dr. William P. Foster. The Haydens moved to Queens, New York to join the Adderly brothers and work in the New York Jazz scene. Hayden enjoyed the city very much but her mother experienced culture shock and the burden of raising a child. Hayden spent summers with her grandparents in Springfield. She read voraciously and particularly enjoyed the book "Bright April." An early mentor of Hayden's was Margaret Pendergast of the state library who created a special collection of books on black people and allowed Hayden to utilize otherwise restricted government-lent books.

Jazz musicians.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University--Faculty

Children of divorced parents.

Millikin University--Alumni and alumnae.

Children's literature, American--Social aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:54  
2010/07/16

Following Carla Hayden's parents' divorce she moved with her mother to Chicago and attended St. Edmund's Episcopal Church's school. Her class had eight students and the entire school had a high teacher to student ratio. Hayden was not politically active but was aware of the racial tensions surrounding the death of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. She enrolled at South Shore High School as the community's demographics became blacker. She enjoyed the school's library and participated in extracurricular activities like choir. She entered a rebellious phase in her senior year and grew an afro. She graduated and entered college because she did not know what career she wanted.

Children of divorced parents.

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church (Chicago, Ill.)

Race riots--Illinois--Chicago--20th Century.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_004, TRT: 0:27:03  
2010/07/16

Carla Hayden attended MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois over Northwestern. She transferred to Roosevelt University within a year with

concentrations on political science and African history. After a chance interview and acceptance for a library position, she enrolled in the University of Chicago's library school. She was tapped into the literary scene in Chicago during the 1970s as authors spoke and new branches opened. After graduation, she became the Young Adult Services Coordinator for the Chicago Public Library System. She re-enrolled at the University of Chicago for the Ph.D. program where she met influential children's librarians. After graduating, she joined the University of Pittsburgh Library School faculty, which included prominent black librarians E.J. Josey and Spencer Shaw.

University of Chicago--Alumni and alumnae.

University of Pittsburgh--Faculty.

Roosevelt University--Alumni and alumnae.

MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill.--Alumni and alumnae.

African American librarians.

Librarianship and information studies—Social Aspects.

Children's libraries.

Library administration—Illinois—Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:31  
2010/07/16

Carla Hayden joined the University of Pittsburgh faculty in 1987 and left in 1991 to serve as the first Deputy Commissioner/Chief Librarian of Chicago Public Library System, the highest ranking administrator with a Master's in Library Science. Hayden was one of the many Chicagoans involved in the creation of the Harold Washington Library, the construction and dedication of which was fraught with rumor. Hayden was tentatively selected as the new commissioner but in 1993 she was recruited by Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. She appreciated their mission and the independence from city politics. She campaigned for the Presidency of the American Library Association and represented the ALA as it opposed provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

University of Pittsburgh--Faculty.

American Library Association--Administration.

Library science--Professional ethics.

Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago Public Library)

Enoch Pratt Free Library.

United States. Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001--Social aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_006, TRT: 0:10:23  
2010/07/16

Carla Hayden spearheaded many initiatives at the Enoch Pratt Free Library that restored or closed branches and modernized its infrastructure and content. Computers, wireless Internet, e-book lending, and even coffee shops are accommodating new patron expectations. Hayden would like to someday return to full-time teaching. She sees librarians of the future needed to engage patrons in the acquisition, assimilation, and discernment of quality information.

University of Maryland--Faculty.

Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Library users--Effect of technological innovations on.

Library orientation--Technological innovations--United States.