

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Shirley Kinsey

PERSON

Kinsey, Shirley

Alternative Names: Shirley Kinsey;

Life Dates: February 7, 1946-

Place of Birth: Lake City, Florida, USA

Residence: Pacific Palisades, CA

Occupations: Art Collector; Educator

Biographical Note

Art collector and educator Shirley Pooler Kinsey was born on February 7, 1946 in Lake City, Florida to Erma and Eddie Pooler. She grew up in St. Augustine, Florida, and was raised by her paternal grandmother, Susie Plummer Pooler. Kinsey attended the Richard J. Murray High School, where she was valedictorian of her graduating class. She then went on to attend Florida A&M University, where she married her husband, Bernard Kinsey, and graduated in 1967 with her B.A. degree in English.

Upon graduation, Kinsey moved to California, where she was hired as an elementary school teacher for the Compton Unified School District. Then, from 1973 until 1982, Kinsey worked as a trainer and training manager for Xerox Corporation. She also went on to receive her M.A. degree in multi-cultural education from Pepperdine University in 1976. From 1985 to 1995, Kinsey served as a project manager for KBK Enterprises, Inc., a real estate development firm. Kinsey and her husband are known for their collection of African American art, books and manuscripts that document and tell the story of African American triumphs and struggles from 1604 to the present. Their exhibit, entitled “The Kinsey collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey – Where Art and History Intersect,” has been on national tour since 2006, and has been on exhibit in fourteen museums, including the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and Epcot at Walt Disney World. In 2009, Kinsey, with her husband, co-authored *The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey*, a companion book to their exhibit, which was adopted by the Florida Department of Education as part of their African American history curriculum for grades K-12 statewide.

In 2008, Kinsey co-founded the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for the Arts and Education to promote education and understanding of African American history and culture through the exhibition of their personal treasures. Additionally, she has helped raise over twenty-two million dollars for charitable and educational institutions, including Florida A&M University. Kinsey has also received numerous awards, including the Spelman Alumni Humanitarian Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Florida A&M University, and a Living Legend Award from ESPN.

Kinsey resides with her husband and son in Pacific Palisades, California.

Shirley P. Kinsey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 18, 2013.

Related Entries

West Augustine School #6 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Excelsior Elementary [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Richard J. Murray High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

High School Diploma

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Pepperdine University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Xerox Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 1982]

Trainer/Training Manager

KBK Enterprises, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1995]

Project Manager

Kinsey Collection [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2006 to ?]

Compton City Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 196709 to 197212]

K-3rd Grade Teacher

Delete [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Director/Manager

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from 1965 to ?]

Member / Lifetime

Florida A&M University Alumni Association
[MEMBEROF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Founding Member / Advisory Board

Wm. H. Johnson [MEMBEROF]
[from 2000 to ?]

Founding Board Member

Kinsey Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from 2008 to ?]

Founding Member / Director