

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Susan Davenport Austin

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Austin, Susan Davenport, 1967-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin,
Dates:	July 15, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:28:12).
Abstract:	Broadcast executive Susan Davenport Austin (1967 -) has served as vice president of strategic planning and senior vice president and chief financial officer of Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation, as well as president of the Sheridan Gospel Network. In 2011, she became the first woman and first African American chairman of the board of directors of Broadcast Music, Inc. Austin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 15, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_161
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast company executive Susan Davenport Austin was born in 1967. Her parents are Judith Davenport and Ronald R. Davenport, the founders of the Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation. Austin received her A.B. degree in mathematics from Harvard University in 1989, and her M.B.A degree from Stanford University Graduate School of Business in 1993.

In 1993, Austin was hired as an investment banker at Salomon Brothers, Inc., where she went on to serve as a vice president in telecommunications finance. From 1997 to 2000, she worked as an associate director for Bear, Stearns & Company. Austin was subsequently appointed as a vice president in the communications, media and entertainment group at Goldman, Sachs & Co., where she served until 2001. Then, in 2002, she was named vice president of strategic planning for her family's Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation (SBC). In 2004, Austin became president of the Sheridan Gospel Network; in 2007, she was made senior vice president and chief financial officer of SBC. She was named vice chairman of SBC in 2013.

In 2011, Austin became the first woman and first African American elected as chairman of the board of directors of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI). She also serves on the boards of Prudential Variable Annuities, Hubbard Radio, and Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation. In addition, Austin has served as vice chair of the National Association of Broadcasters' Audit Committee, as president of the Stanford Business School Alumni Association, chair of the Lower Eastside Girls Club, board member of the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation, and as president of the board of the MacDowell Colony.

Austin was honored by Girls Incorporated in 1998 and received the inaugural John W. Gardner Volunteer Service Award from The Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2002. In 2008, she received the International Gospel

Industry Service Honor and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Prestige Award. *Radio Ink Magazine* has named her one of the Most Influential African Americans in Radio and one of the Most Influential Women in Radio. She has been profiled in *Womensbiz*, *Ebony* and *XII* magazines.

Susan Davenport Austin was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 15, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Susan Davenport Austin was conducted by Harriette Cole on July 15, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast executive Susan Davenport Austin (1967 -) has served as vice president of strategic planning and senior vice president and chief financial officer of Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation, as well as president of the Sheridan Gospel Network. In 2011, she became the first woman and first African American chairman of the board of directors of Broadcast Music, Inc.

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:

Austin, Susan Davenport, 1967-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Austin, Susan Davenport, 1967---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Broadcast Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Susan Davenport Austin, July 15, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_001, TRT: 1:29:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_002, TRT: 2:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_003, TRT: 3:29:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_004, TRT: 4:29:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_005, TRT: 5:28:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_006, TRT: 6:30:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_007, TRT: 7:30:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_008, TRT: 8:30:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Susan Davenport Austin, Section A2014_161_001_009, TRT: 9:30:33 ?