

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Thelma Sias

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Sias, Thelma, 1953-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias,
Dates:	February 21, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:11:29).
Abstract:	Corporate executive Thelma Sias (1953 -) served for thirty-one years as director of community outreach and vice president of local affairs for the We Energy Corporation. Sias was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 21, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_058
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive Thelma Sias was born on June 19, 1953 in Mayersville, Mississippi to Pauline Carter Sias and Theodore Roosevelt Sias. She attended Rolling Fork High School in Rolling Fork, Mississippi and received a scholarship to attend Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta Georgia where she received her B.A. degree in 1976.

After graduation, Sias was recruited by the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay in Green Bay, Wisconsin to recruit African American and minority students at the Ethnic Heritage Recruitment Center on campus. In 1982, she moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and worked for alderman Roy B. Nabors, one of few African American alderman on the Common Council. In 1986, Sias was hired as a supervisor for community outreach for the Wisconsin Gas Company, now known as Wisconsin Energy. She was promoted to manager and then became director of community outreach when the gas and electric companies merged. In 2003, Sias was promoted to vice president of local affairs and served on the board of the We Energies Foundation. In 2017, Sias retired from her position at We Energy, after thirty-one years with the company.

Sias served as a 2014 community campaign co-chair for the United Way of Greater Milwaukee prior to the organization's merger with the United Way in Waukesha County. She was named to *Savoy* magazine's 2016 list of Top Influential Women in Corporate America and was honored by the Milwaukee Urban League which established the Thelma A. Sias Fellows of Distinction Award. In 2017, she was honored by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation as the Doug Jansson Leadership Award honoree and a Civic Leaders Award honoree by the Milwaukee Fellowship Open. Sias was the Milwaukee Business Journal's 2015 40 under 40 Hall of Fame honoree.

Sias served on numerous civic boards, including the African American Women's Project, Community Advocates, the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County board, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, Children's Hospital Foundation board, Employ Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Workforce Development, Cardinal Stritch University board, the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

Thelma Sias was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 21, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Thelma Sias was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 21, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive Thelma Sias (1953 -) served for thirty-one years as director of community outreach and vice president of local affairs for the We Energy Corporation.

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:

Sias, Thelma, 1953-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Sias, Thelma, 1953- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Corporate Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Thelma Sias, February 21, 2017. 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 Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_001, TRT: 1:34:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_002, TRT: 2:29:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_003, TRT: 3:25:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_004, TRT: 4:29:46 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_005, TRT: 5:30:43 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_006, TRT: 6:33:10 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Thelma Sias, Section A2017_058_001_007, TRT: 7:08:04 ?