

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr.

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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>	Pijaux, Lawrence J., 1944-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 3, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:10:44).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Educator and nonprofit executive Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr. (1944 - ) was an educator and served as the leader of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for nineteen years. Pijaux was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 3, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_091
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and nonprofit executive Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr. was born on April 11, 1944 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from McDonogh 35 High School in 1962. Pijaux attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and received his B.S. degree. He later earned his M.A.T. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans; and his Ed.D. degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Pijaux also completed a post-graduate program at the Getty Leadership Institute for Museum Management at the University of California, Berkeley.

Pijaux worked for nearly twenty years in the New Orleans Public School System. While in this system, he served as Principal of L.B. Landry High School. During his tenure, he helped reduce the dropout rate from nearly thirty percent to only fifteen percent. He later worked at the Indianapolis Museum of Art before being recruited to lead the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Pijaux retired as President and CEO of the Institute in 2014 only one month shy of a twenty-year tenure. He led the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute through its accreditation from the American Association of Museums in 2005; becoming an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2007; and receiving two national awards—both presented by First Lady Laura Bush at the White House in Washington, D.C.—the “Coming Up Taller Award for Community Service” in 2007 and the “Inaugural National Medal for Museum Service” in 2008.

In addition to his professional career, Pijaux served as a board member in a number of organizations. From 2006 until 2008, he served as president of the Association of African American Museums, in addition to being named to the National Museum and Library Services Board in 2010 by President Barack Obama. Pijaux has also served on the board of the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science, and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel.

Pijaux has been recognized and awarded for his contributions to the education community during his career. In 1989, he was named as one of ten “American Heroes in Education” by *Reader’s Digest* and was named Alabama Tourism Executive of the Year in 2006 as well. Pijaux was also the recipient of the Smithsonian Institute’s Award

for Museum Leadership and the Association of African American Museum's Service and Achievement Award. In 2015, Pijaux was inducted into the Alabama Tourism Hall of Fame.

Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Ed.D. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 3, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr. was conducted by Denise Gines on May 3, 2017, in Birmingham, Alabama, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Educator and nonprofit executive Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr. (1944 - ) was an educator and served as the leader of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for nineteen years.

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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:

Pijaux, Lawrence J., 1944-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pijaux, Lawrence J., 1944---Interviews

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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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## Occupations:

Nonprofit Chief Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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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 Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., May 3, 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).

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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

Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Section A2017\_091\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Section A2017\_091\_001\_002, TRT:  
2:30:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Section A2017\_091\_001\_003, TRT:  
3:28:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Section A2017\_091\_001\_004, TRT:  
4:28:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Section A2017\_091\_001\_005, TRT:  
5:06:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr., Section A2017\_091\_001\_006, TRT:  
6:08:48 ?