

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert C. Davidson, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Davidson, Robert C., 1945-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr.,
Dates:	August 24, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:21:58).
Abstract:	Entrepreneur Robert C. Davidson, Jr. (1946 -) founded Surface Protection Industries in 1978. He served as chairman of the Morehouse College and Art Center College of Design board of trustees. Davidson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 24, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_142
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entrepreneur Robert C. Davidson, Jr. was born in Memphis, Tennessee on October 3, 1945. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated with his B.A. degree in 1967, and received his M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business in 1967.

Davidson worked at the management consulting firm Cresap, McCormick and Paget and later founded the Urban National Corporation. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, the private venture capital firm focused on investing in minority-controlled businesses. Then, Davidson joined the leadership of Clarence Avant's Sussex Records recording label. After a few years, he founded his own company, Surface Protection Industries, where Davidson served as chairman and CEO. In 1997, he became a trustee at his alma mater, Morehouse College, and later was elected chairman. Davidson also joined the board of trustees of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena in 2004. He chaired the board's governance committee and led the presidential search committee. In 2010, Davidson was elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Art Center College of Design.

Davidson has also served as a director of the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. He has served on the board of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Charles Drew University School of Medicine. He has also been a member of the boards of the African American Museum of Art, the Black-Jewish Economic Development Committee of Los Angeles, Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

In 1990, Davidson received the Raoul Wallenberg Save the Children award for his humanitarian ideals. He was honored by Morehouse College with the Bennie Leadership award in 2007 and in 1997 the dedication of the President's newly constructed home and executive center was named the "Davidson House Center for Excellence" in his honor. In 2013, Davidson and his wife were named Arts and Culture Ambassadors by the Pasadena Community Foundation for their commitment to the arts in the local community.

Davidson and his wife, Faye Davidson, have three sons, Robert Davidson, III, John Davidson, and Julian Davidson.

Robert C. Davidson, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 24, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr. was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 24, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entrepreneur Robert C. Davidson, Jr. (1946 -) founded Surface Protection Industries in 1978. He served as chairman of the Morehouse College and Art Center College of Design board of trustees.

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:

Davidson, Robert C., 1945-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davidson, Robert C., 1945- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Entrepreneur

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 Robert C. Davidson, Jr., August 24, 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 Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_001, TRT: 1:28:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_002, TRT:
2:28:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_003, TRT:
3:29:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_004, TRT:
4:28:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_005, TRT:
5:32:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_006, TRT:
6:32:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_007, TRT:
7:30:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_008, TRT:
8:28:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert C. Davidson, Jr., Section A2017_142_001_009, TRT:
9:23:24 ?