

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Fleming

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Fleming, John, 1944- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, |
| Dates: | November 15, 2017 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2017 |
| Physical Description: | 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:16:04). |
| Abstract: | Museum director, curator and historian John Fleming (1944 -) was the director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center. He also served on the Plan for Action Commission for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and as the museum director of the National African American Museum of Music. Fleming was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 15, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2017_203 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Museum director, curator and historian John Fleming was born on August 3, 1944 in Morganton, North Carolina. Fleming graduated from Olive Hill High School in 1962 and began attending Berea College that same year. In 1966, Fleming graduated from Berea College. He went on to attend Howard University and earned his Ph.D. degree in American history from there in 1974.

After graduating from Berea College, Fleming served as an educational specialist on the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights in 1966. From 1967 until 1969, Fleming then served in the Peace Corps in Malawi. Upon his return from Malawi, Fleming served as an analyst on the United States Civil Rights Commission. He worked on the development of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio in 1980 as project director, and then served as its director. In 1992, Fleming was appointed to the Underground Railroad Advisory Committee, and served as the Underground Railroad Freedom Center's director from 1998 until 2001. Following his tenure as director, Fleming was appointed to the National Museum of African American History and Culture's Plan for Action Presidential Commission. The commission was responsible for the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Fleming founded JE Associates, LLC in 2007. In 2015, Fleming was hired as the museum director for the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville, Tennessee.

Fleming has won multiple awards for his work. He won the Ohioana Library's Citation Award in 1997, the Ohio Humanities Council's Bjornson Award in 2007, the American Association for State and Local History's Award of Distinction in 2008, and the Zora Neale Hurston Award in 2008. Fleming has served on the board of the Columbus Area Leadership Program, on the nomination committee for the American Association for State and Local History, and on Ohio's Bicentennial Commission. Fleming has also served on the program, executive, and honors committees for the American Association of Museums. In addition to his awards, Fleming has published three

books, “The Lengthening Shadow of Slavery: Historical Justification for Affirmative Action for Blacks in High Education,” in 1976, “The Case for Affirmative Action for Blacks in Higher Education” in 1978, and “A Summer Remembered: A Memoir” in 2005.

Fleming and his wife, Barbara Fleming, have two children.

John Fleming was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 15, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John Fleming was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 15, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Museum director, curator and historian John Fleming (1944 -) was the director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center. He also served on the Plan for Action Commission for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and as the museum director of the National African American Museum of Music.

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:

Fleming, John, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Fleming, John, 1944- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Museum Director

Curator

Historian

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 John Fleming, November 15, 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 John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_001, TRT: 1:29:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_002, TRT: 2:29:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_003, TRT: 3:30:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_004, TRT: 4:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_005, TRT: 5:29:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_006, TRT: 6:28:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_007, TRT: 7:33:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_008, TRT: 8:30:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Fleming, Section A2017_203_001_009, TRT: 9:14:43 ?