

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Patricia Cruz

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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>	Cruz, Patricia, 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 8, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:11:57).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Arts administrator Patricia Cruz (1947-) was the executive director of Aaron Davis Hall, Inc. and Harlem Stage. Cruz was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 8, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_214
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Arts administrator Patricia Cruz was born on January 1, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois to Nelson Marshall and Myrtle Smith. She graduated from Hirsch High School in Chicago, Illinois and attended Columbia College in Chicago and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois where she studied theater. Cruz went on to graduate from the Goodman School of Theater.

Cruz was a student, actress and activist in Chicago before moving to New York City where she met her husband, artist Emilio Cruz. Following a year in St. Louis with the Black Artist Group, she returned to Chicago while her husband taught at the Art Institute of Chicago. She and her husband, Emilio, also worked together making and producing plays that he wrote. In 1982, they returned to New York City where she accepted a position as deputy director for programs at the Studio Museum in Harlem. In 1998, Cruz accepted a position as executive director at Aaron Davis Hall Inc., an arts non-profit in Harlem that commissioned, staged, and supported artists of color. Her responsibilities included overseeing programming, administrative management, and fundraising. Cruz helped to raise over \$26 million to renovate the Gatehouse which became the new home for Aaron Davis Hall Inc., and was rebranded as Harlem Stage in 2006. Cruz worked to expand programming and introduced a major commissioning program, known as, WaterWorks, to commemorate the original function of the Gatehouse as the historic conduit for clean water from the Croton Aqueduct. In addition, Cruz also expanded programming at Harlem Stage, introducing Uptown Nights, and Harlem Slide and commissioned numerous artists including Jason Moran, Vijay Iyer and Stew, while serving thousands of students annually and collaborating with a number of nonprofits including Harlem School for the Arts, Repertorio Espanol, Manhattan School of Music and Carnegie Hall.

Cruz served as a board member of the Urban Assembly; she formerly served on the boards of the Andy Warhol Foundation, Art Table and was the president of The New York Foundation for the Arts. Cruz also serves as a member of the Cal Arts Board of Overseers and is a member of the Tony Nominating Committee and the Brendan Gill jury of the Municipal Arts Society. In 2014, Harlem Stage was awarded the Charles Dawson Award for programmatic excellence and sustained achievement in programming from the Association of Performing Arts

Presenters.

Patricia Cruz was interviewed by *TheHistoryMakers* on December 8, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Patricia Cruz was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 8, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Arts administrator Patricia Cruz (1947-) was the executive director of Aaron Davis Hall, Inc. and Harlem Stage.

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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:

Cruz, Patricia, 1947-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cruz, Patricia, 1947- --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:

Arts Administrator

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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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 Patricia Cruz, December 8, 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 Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:21 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:41 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:58 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cruz, Section A2017\_214\_001\_007, TRT: 7:15:38 ?