

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mia Birdsong

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Birdsong, Mia
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong,
Dates:	November 28, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:27:23).
Abstract:	Nonprofit executive Mia Birdsong (1973 -) Birdsong was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 28, 2017, in Oakland, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_215
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nonprofit executive Mia Birdsong was born on March 19, 1973 in Syracuse, New York to Georgia Whitney and Maurice Thompson. Birdsong earned her B.A. degree in African American studies from Oberlin College in 1995.

After graduation, Birdsong began working for the Health Initiatives for Youth in San Francisco, California. In 1998, she became a volunteer and organizer for the grassroots organization Critical Resistance, where she remained until 2008 when she was named vice president of the Family Independence Initiative. While working for the Family Independence Initiative, she created the Torchlight Prize for underfunded self-organized community groups. In 2013, Birdsong and Mariah Rankine-Landers co-founded Canerow, a resource for parents of biracial children. She delivered a TED talk entitled *The Story We Tell About Poverty Isn't True* in 2015. That same year, Birdsong co-founded the Family Story Project with Nicole Rodgers, becoming its co-director. In 2013, Birdsong's article *Inspired by Weeksville: Celebrating the Extraordinary Contributions of Everyday People* was published by *Empower* magazine. In 2014, several more of Birdsong's articles were published such as *To Tackle Poverty, Trust the Power of Community* in *The Huffington Post*, *Stop the Stereotypes and Give Black Dads their Due* by *The Good Men Project*, and *The Power of Community-led Collective Action* on *TalkPoverty.org*. Birdsong's articles have also appeared on the On Being radio program and in *Slate* magazine.

From 2009 to 2011, Birdsong served on the board of directors for Peoples Grocery. She also joined the board of directors of the Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center in 2011 and Forward Together in 2015. Birdsong served as board chair for the North Oakland Community Charter School from 2013 to 2017. Birdsong was the recipient of an Ascend Fellowship from the Aspen Institute in 2012 as well as a New America CA Fellowship in 2016. She was also named by *Colorlines* as one of the 15 Remarkable Women of Color Who Rocked 2015. In 2017, Birdsong was named a senior fellow of the Economic Security Project.

Birdsong and her husband, Nino Moschella, have two children.

Mia Birdsong was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 28, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mia Birdsong was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 28, 2017, in Oakland, California, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Nonprofit executive Mia Birdsong (1973 -)

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:

Birdsong, Mia

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Birdsong, Mia--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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 Mia Birdsong, November 28, 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 Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_001, TRT: 1:28:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_002, TRT: 2:28:49 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_003, TRT: 3:29:34 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_004, TRT: 4:33:33 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_005, TRT: 5:36:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_006, TRT: 6:30:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mia Birdsong, Section A2017_215_001_007, TRT: 7:19:18 ?