

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong

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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>	Armstrong, Edith C. McLoud, 1951-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 21, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:31:40).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Storyteller Edith C. McLoud Armstrong (1951 - ) also worked as an English/Spanish bilingual storyteller, published writer, percussionist, and voice-over artist under the name Mama Edie. Armstrong was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 21, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_019
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Storyteller Edith C. McLoud Armstrong was born on June 2, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to Christine Smith McLoud and Maxel McLoud, Sr. In 1969, she graduated from Aquinas Dominican High School in Chicago. She received her B.S. degree in 1973 in speech-language pathology from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and her M.H.S. degree in communication disorders from Governors State University in University Park, Illinois in 1989. Armstrong began working with the Chicago Public School (CPS) system in the late 1970s as a speech therapy assistant and started graduate school part-time in 1985. During this time, Armstrong provided therapy services for students with multiple disabilities and taught deaf students to speak. This population inspired her to create lesson plans that incorporated science, technology, engineering, the art of storytelling and math (a process now popularly referred to as STEAM). Armstrong left CPS in 1989 to complete her master's degree.

Her first invitation to provide paid storytelling services was right after resigning from CPS, after years of having created productions within the schools. This activity grew by word of mouth into a part-time profession. From 1989 to 2014, Armstrong served various organizations as an independent consultant as a speech and language pathologist.

In 2014, Armstrong left speech therapy and became a full-time Spanish/English bilingual spoken word artist, contributing author, motivational speaker, percussionist, educational consultant, and voice-over artist under the culturally given name of Mama Edie. She provides storytelling performances and workshops for parents, educators, children, social workers, attorneys and other professionals for diversity training, to increase cultural appreciation, interpersonal communication skills, personal empowerment and to promote social justice. Performing also for cultural arts museums, festivals, social service agencies, faith-based organizations and the corporate sector, in 1998, Armstrong co-founded ASE: the Chicago Association of Black Storytellers. A master artist of storytelling in the African-American Oral Tradition, Armstrong uses a blend of Spanish and English or Sign Language. She includes interactive songs from various African and Native American cultures that reflect her own heritage. She

has performed in Ghana, Togo, Benin, Mexico, India, Trinidad, South Africa, and has been a guest on various PBS and other television and radio programs. She also authored numerous articles on self-empowerment through cultural knowledge and pride; countering violence through effective communication, storytelling, music and movement; and language and literary development through the arts.

Armstrong's memberships have included the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.; National Storytelling Network; ASE: The Chicago Association of Black Storytellers; American Speech, Language & Hearing Association; National Black Child Development Institute; Afro-Latin Institute; and the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP). A highlight of her career was the invitation to participate as the storyteller in an international peace conference in Iraq in 2017. The article describing this experience has now been published by *Storytelling Magazine*, an international publication of the National Storytelling Network.

Armstrong has one daughter, Ayana Diane.

Edith C. McLoud Armstrong was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 21, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 21, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Storyteller Edith C. McLoud Armstrong (1951 - ) also worked as an English/Spanish bilingual storyteller, published writer, percussionist, and voice-over artist under the name Mama Edie.

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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:

Armstrong, Edith C. McLoud, 1951-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Armstrong, Edith C. McLoud, 1951- --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:

Storyteller

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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 Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, February 21, 2018.  
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 Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_008, TRT: 8:29:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_009, TRT: 9:27:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Edith C. McLoud Armstrong, Section A2018\_019\_001\_010, TRT: 10:08:56 ?