

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with George K. Arthur

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Arthur, George K., 1933-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with George K. Arthur,
Dates:	April 21, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:47:24).
Abstract:	Civic leader and municipal official George K. Arthur (1933 - 2020) served on the Buffalo Common Council for over twenty years, acting as president from 1984 to 1996. Arthur was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 21, 2018, in Buffalo, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_079
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader and municipal official George K. Arthur was born on June 29, 1933 in Buffalo, New York to Jayne Arthur and William Arthur. Arthur attended School 32 and graduated from Seneca Vocational High School in 1951. After serving in the U.S. Army's Signal Corps from 1953 to 1955, Arthur took night classes at the University of Buffalo's Millard Fillmore School. He later earned his B.A. degree in political science at Empire State College in 1977.

Arthur worked briefly at Bethlehem Steel and as a photo technician at PhotoTech Studios in Buffalo. In 1964, Arthur won a seat on the Erie County Board of Supervisors, serving until 1967. From 1970 to 1976, he worked as a narcotics counselor for the New York State Office of Drug Abuse. He also served on the Buffalo Common Council as a representative of the Ellicott District from 1970 to 1977. With the support of the Buffalo branch of the NAACP and the Citizens' Council for Human Relations, Arthur was one of the plaintiffs to file a school desegregation lawsuit against the City of Buffalo in 1972. In 1976, the courts ruled their favor. Arthur was elected in 1978 to serve as councilman-at-large on the Buffalo Common Council. He served as president of the Buffalo Common Council from 1984 to 1996. In 2002, Arthur was selected to serve as chair of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Reapportionment. He also served as chair of the Erie Council Charter Revision Commission and secretary of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority. In 2008, Arthur served as a Barack Obama delegate to the Electoral College.

Arthur served as president and treasurer of the Michigan Street Preservation Corporation, and oversaw the preservation of Reverend J. Edward Nash's home in Buffalo. In 2007, Arthur was honored with the Red Jacket Award from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. He was also a recipient of the NAACP Medgar Evers Award and the citizen of the month award from the Erie County Legislature. In 2017, Arthurs' likeness was included on The Freedom Wall in Buffalo.

Arthur and his wife, Frances Bivens Arthur, have three children: Hugh, Janice, and George Jr.

George K. Arthur was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 21, 2018.

Arthur passed away on December 25, 2020.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with George K. Arthur was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 21, 2018, in Buffalo, New York, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader and municipal official George K. Arthur (1933 - 2020) served on the Buffalo Common Council for over twenty years, acting as president from 1984 to 1996.

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:

Arthur, George K., 1933-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Arthur, George K., 1933- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

City Council Member

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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 George K. Arthur, April 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).

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 George K. Arthur, Section A2018_079_001_001, TRT: 1:27:38
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Video Oral History Interview with George K. Arthur, Section A2018_079_001_002, TRT: 2:30:18
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Video Oral History Interview with George K. Arthur, Section A2018_079_001_003, TRT: 3:28:19
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Video Oral History Interview with George K. Arthur, Section A2018_079_001_004, TRT: 4:28:47
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Video Oral History Interview with George K. Arthur, Section A2018_079_001_005, TRT: 5:30:07
?

Video Oral History Interview with George K. Arthur, Section A2018_079_001_006, TRT: 6:22:15
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