

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charlene Carruthers

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carruthers, Charlene A., 1985-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers,
Dates:	May 4, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:11:29).
Abstract:	Community activist Charlene Carruthers (1985 -) worked with nonprofit organizations like the Women's Media Center, Color of Change, and the National People's Action before serving as the founding national director of the Black Youth Project 100. Carruthers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 4, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_092
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Community activist Charlene Carruthers was born on July 28, 1985 in Chicago, Illinois to Gwendolyn White and Charles Carruthers. After graduating from Senn High School in 2003, Carruthers went on to earn her B.A. degree in international studies and history in 2007. Carruthers then received her M.S.W. degree at Washington University in St. Louis in 2009.

In 2010, Carruthers became a program coordinator for the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. She then worked as an online organizing strategist for the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. In 2011, she joined the Women's Media Center, where she worked as a strategic initiatives manager. After working as a campaign manager for Color of Change in 2012, Carruthers returned to Chicago to work as the director of online engagement for the National People's Action. In 2013, she co-founded and became the national director for the Black Youth Project 100 (BYP 100). Under her leadership, BYP 100 expanded to include eight local chapters, launched a campaign to reduce the criminalization of black youth, and formalized its Agenda to Build Black Futures project. Carruthers also organized a number of protests in Chicago after the shootings of Rekia Boyd and Laquan McDonald by Chicago police. In 2015, Carruthers served as a member of the Dream Defenders Palestine Delegation; and in 2018, she released her book entitled *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Our Movement*. Carruthers also developed political training programs for several organizations, including the NAACP, the Center for Progressive Leadership, Young People For, and Wellstone Action.

Carruthers received several awards for her activism work, including the Movement Builder Award from the United States Students Association, and the New Organizing Institute 2015 Organizer of the Year Award. In 2017, Carruthers received the YWCA's Dorothy I. Height Award. She served on the board of directors for SisterSong. Carruthers has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Reader*, *The Nation*, as well as *Ebony* and *Essence* magazines. She has appeared on CNN, Democracy Now!, BBC and MSNBC. Carruthers has also written for *The Root*, *Colorlines* and the *Boston Review*.

Charlene Carruthers was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 4, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Charlene Carruthers was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 4, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Community activist Charlene Carruthers (1985 -) worked with nonprofit organizations like the Women's Media Center, Color of Change, and the National People's Action before serving as the founding national director of the Black Youth Project 100.

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:

Carruthers, Charlene A., 1985-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Carruthers, Charlene A., 1985- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Community Activist

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 Charlene Carruthers, May 4, 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 Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_001, TRT: 1:30:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_002, TRT: 2:29:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_003, TRT: 3:29:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_004, TRT: 4:28:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_005, TRT: 5:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_006, TRT: 6:30:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Charlene Carruthers, Section A2018_092_001_007, TRT: 7:14:03 ?