

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert Parris Moses

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Moses, Robert Parris
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses,
Dates:	November 16, 2018 and November 18, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	13 uncompressed MOV digital video files (6:19:12).
Abstract:	Civic leader and educator Robert Parris Moses (1935 - 2021) served as co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) and was the recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and founded the Algebra Project. Moses was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 16, 2018 and November 18, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_215
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader and educator Robert Parris Moses was born on January 23, 1935 in New York City to Louise Parris and Gregory Moses. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School in 1952, and enrolled at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where he received a Rhodes scholarship. Moses received his B.A. degree from Hamilton College in 1956, and his M.A. degree from Harvard University in 1957.

Moses began teaching mathematics at the Horace Mann School in the Bronx, New York in 1958. In 1960, he became active in the Civil Rights Movement, joining the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) branch in Harlem. The following summer, Moses traveled to Atlanta where he worked for SCLC and registered members for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) fall conference. In 1961, Moses resigned from his teaching position at the Horace Mann School and returned to the South, where he worked to register Black voters in McComb, Mississippi. Moses then became the co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), and helped to launch the freedom vote, a mock gubernatorial election to register black voters in Mississippi. In 1964, Moses co-organized the Freedom Summer campaign, recruiting hundreds of student volunteers to conduct a Black voter registration drive in Mississippi. That summer, Moses and others organized the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) to challenge the all-white representation of the state at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Shortly after, Moses was actively recruited by the Vietnam draft board, but moved to Canada to avoid the draft. He spent two years in Canada before moving to Tanzania and working for the Ministry of Education. There, he served as chairperson for the mathematics department at the Same Secondary School. Moses returned to the United States in 1976, under President Jimmy Carter's amnesty program for draft resisters. Moses settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he resumed his doctoral studies at Harvard University and taught mathematics at a local high school.

In 1982, Moses received a MacArthur Fellowship, and launched the Algebra Project to improve mathematics

competency for low-income students and children of color. By 1985, the Algebra Project was officially recognized by the Cambridge School Committee, and was incorporated in 1990. Two years later, Moses launched the Delta Algebra Project in Mississippi. Moses published his book entitled *Radical Equations* in 2001. In 2006, Moses was named a Frank H.T. Rhodes Class of '56 Professor at Cornell University. That same year, he was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Harvard University.

Moses and his wife, Janet Jemmott, have four children: Maisha, Omowale, Tabasuri and Malaika.

Robert Parris Moses was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 16, 2018.

Moses passed away on July 25, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Robert Parris Moses was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 16, 2018 and November 18, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 13 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader and educator Robert Parris Moses (1935 - 2021) served as co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) and was the recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and founded the Algebra Project.

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:

Moses, Robert Parris

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Moses, Robert Parris--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civil Rights Leader

Educator

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 Robert Parris Moses, November 16, 2018 and November 18, 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 Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_001, TRT: 1:26:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_002, TRT: 2:31:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_003, TRT: 3:31:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_004, TRT: 4:27:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_005, TRT: 5:34:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_006, TRT: 6:28:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_001_007, TRT: 7:26:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_002_008, TRT: 8:26:58 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_002_009, TRT: 9:29:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_002_010, TRT: 10:29:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_002_011, TRT: 11:30:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_002_012, TRT: 12:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Parris Moses, Section A2018_215_002_013, TRT: 13:27:21 ?