

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gerald B. Smith

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Smith, Gerald B., 1950-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith,
Dates:	April 26, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:29:05).
Abstract:	Investment banker Gerald B. Smith (1950 -) was a founding member of the New York Futures Exchange (NYFE) and co-founded Smith Graham & Co. Investment Advisors, L.P. Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 26, 2019, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_034
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Investment banker Gerald B. Smith was born on September 28, 1950 in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas in 1968, and received his B.B.A. degree from Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas in 1972.

After graduation, Smith became an assistant buyer for men's sportswear at Foley's department store. In 1974, Smith was hired at the investment banking firm of Hibbard, O'Conner & Weeks in Houston, Texas, where he completed the check training program and worked as a trader. In 1979, Smith moved to New York and joined Dillon, Read & Co. as the first African American hired by the firm, where he worked in the fixed income sector, trading and advising in portfolio management. In 1980, Smith became a founding member of the New York Futures Exchange (NYFE), which was established for the trading of futures contracts of financial products. Smith later worked for the Westcap Corporation, where he was responsible for national sales and trading with institutional investors. He also served as senior vice president and director of fixed income securities for Underwood Neuhaus & Co. In 1990, Smith co-founded Smith Graham & Co. Investment Advisors, L.P. in Houston, Texas, along with Ladell Graham.

Smith served as a trustee of various funds of The Charles Schwab Family of Funds and became director of Cooper Industries. He was also a director of Northern Border Partners, L.P. as well as the lead independent director and presiding non-management director of Cooper Industries PLC. From 2009 to 2013, Smith served as director of ONEOK, Inc.; and, from 2011 to 2016, Smith served on the board of The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas – Houston Branch. In 2012, he became director of New York Life Insurance Co. and independent director of Eaton Corporation PLC. He was also chairman of the Texas Southern University Foundation.

In 2007, *Black Enterprise* magazine named Smith one of the 50 Most Powerful African Americans on Wall Street. In 2012, he received an honorary doctorate degree from Texas Southern University. Smith and his wife, Anita were recognized as Excellence in Education Honorees at the Annual United Negro College Fund's Gala in 2015, and are

both founding donors of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He was also inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame and received the United Way Volunteer of the Year Award, the National Black MBA Association's Leadership Empowerment Award, YMCA Annual Tribute to Leadership Award, and the Community Partner's "Father of the Year" Award. In 2015, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce and The National Economic Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Award from The 100 Black Men Association of America.

Gerald B. Smith was interviewed *The HistoryMakers* on April 26, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gerald B. Smith was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on April 26, 2019, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Investment banker Gerald B. Smith (1950 -) was a founding member of the New York Futures Exchange (NYFE) and co-founded Smith Graham & Co. Investment Advisors, L.P.

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:

Smith, Gerald B., 1950-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Smith, Gerald B., 1950- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Investment Banker

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Gerald B. Smith, April 26, 2019. 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 Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_001, TRT: 1:29:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_002, TRT: 2:30:00 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_003, TRT: 3:33:25 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_004, TRT: 4:57:05 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_005, TRT: 5:29:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_006, TRT: 6:30:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_007, TRT: 7:30:42 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Gerald B. Smith, Section A2019_034_001_008, TRT: 8:27:33 ?