

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mary Yearwood

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Yearwood, Mary, 1954-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mary Yearwood,
Dates:	October 24, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:59:15).
Abstract:	Archivist Mary Yearwood (1954 -) worked at New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for forty-three years, as a librarian, curator of photographs and prints, and director of collections and information services. Yearwood was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 24, 2019, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_116
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Archivist Mary Yearwood was born on January 14, 1954 in Barbados to Frederick and Una Yearwood. She attended St. Mary's Infant School, St. Mary's Junior School, and St. Leonard's Girls Secondary School. Yearwood moved with her family to Brooklyn, New York in 1969. After graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1972, Yearwood received her B.A. degree in literature from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York in 1976. She went on to receive her M.L.S degree from Columbia University School of Library Service in 1981.

In 1975, while attending Brooklyn College, Yearwood worked as a page in the music division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. In 1977, she joined New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as a technical assistant in the manuscripts, archives and rare books division. Upon receiving her M.L.S. degree, Yearwood was promoted to librarian in the manuscripts, archives and rare books division. From 1993 to 2017, she served as curator of the photographs and prints division, working extensively with the Morgan and Martin Smith, Austin Hanson, and Richard Saunders collections. She then became director of collections and information services in 2017. During her forty-three year career at the Schomburg Center, she curated the "St. Philip's Episcopal Church Bicentennial Exhibition" in 2009, "President Barack Obama: The First Year" in 2010, "Harlem Views/Diasporan Visions: The New Harlem Renaissance Photographers" in 2011, and "Curators' Choice: Black Life Matters" in 2016. Yearwood also stewarded collections from Malcom X and Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. She retired from the Schomburg Center in 2020.

In 2017, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Yearwood to the Archives, Reference and Research Advisory Board. Yearwood is also a member of the American Library Association. In 2016, Yearwood received the Leadership Award from the New York Public Library.

Yearwood resides in New York City.

Mary Yearwood was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 24, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mary Yearwood was conducted by Harriette Cole on October 24, 2019, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Archivist Mary Yearwood (1954 -) worked at New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for forty-three years, as a librarian, curator of photographs and prints, and director of collections and information services.

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:

Yearwood, Mary, 1954-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Yearwood, Mary, 1954---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Archivist

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 Mary Yearwood, October 24, 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 Mary Yearwood, Section A2019_116_001_001, TRT: 1:29:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Yearwood, Section A2019_116_001_002, TRT: 2:28:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Yearwood, Section A2019_116_001_003, TRT: 3:29:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Yearwood, Section A2019_116_001_004, TRT: 4:29:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Yearwood, Section A2019_116_001_005, TRT: 5:28:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mary Yearwood, Section A2019_116_001_006, TRT: 6:34:15 ?