

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mora McLean

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McLean, Mora L.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean,
Dates:	October 23, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:17:14).
Abstract:	Nonprofit executive Mora McLean (1955 -) was a representative for Nigeria and West Africa at the Ford Foundation before serving as president and CEO of the Africa-America Institute from 1996 to 2012. McLean was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 23, 2019, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_117
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nonprofit executive Mora McLean was born on December 6, 1955 in New York City to Vera and William McLean. She was raised in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands where she graduated from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1973. McLean then graduated from Wesleyan University where she earned her B.A. degree in African studies in 1977 before receiving her J.D. degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1980.

From 1980 to 1981, McLean worked as a legal associate for Riker, Danzig, Scherer & Hyland, Attorneys at Law where she focused on commercial litigation. The following year, she became an aide to the New Jersey Assembly Labor Committee, working on legislative research, analysis, and drafting. McLean remained there until 1985 when she was appointed counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives' commerce subcommittee on commerce, transportation, and tourism. She served in this capacity for five months before becoming an assistant program officer in the human rights and governance division of the Ford Foundation. She was promoted to program officer in 1987; and, in 1990, she became the Foundation's representative for Nigeria and assistant representative for West Africa. From 1993 to 1995, McLean served as the Foundation's representative for West Africa with oversight of the Foundation's offices in Lagos, Nigeria and Dakar, Senegal. For the next year, McLean served as deputy director for all of the Foundation's Africa and Middle East programs. She left the Ford Foundation upon being named president and CEO of the Africa-America Institute in 1996, which she led until 2012. Rutgers University hired McLean as a visiting scholar at their center for African studies where she worked for two years. In 2015, the school made her the program strategy advisor for their Newark campus's launch of a global urban studies doctoral program; and, in 2016, she became a Cornwall Center Senior Fellow, adjunct professor, and director of corporate and foundation relations in the office of the chancellor. In 2019, *West African Youth Challenges and Opportunity Pathways* was published, of which McLean was editor.

McLean has served on numerous boards throughout her career, including the Council on Foreign Relations, Legal Aid Society of Mercer County, New Jersey, the Orphan Society of the Oranges and Maplewood, United States

Institute of Peace, and chairing the U.S. Trade Advisory Committee on Africa. She has also received several awards, including the 2002 Distinguished Wesleyan Alumna and being named Wesleyan Trustee Emerita in 2008 and Africa-America Institute President Emerita in 2012.

McLean resides in New Jersey and has one adult child, Atinuke.

Mora McLean was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 23, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mora McLean was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 23, 2019, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Nonprofit executive Mora McLean (1955 -) was a representative for Nigeria and West Africa at the Ford Foundation before serving as president and CEO of the Africa-America Institute from 1996 to 2012.

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:

McLean, Mora L.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McLean, Mora L.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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 Mora McLean, October 23, 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 Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_001, TRT: 1:29:43 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_002, TRT: 2:31:03 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_003, TRT: 3:30:08 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_004, TRT: 4:29:38 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_005, TRT: 5:29:26 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_006, TRT: 6:29:04 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_007, TRT: 7:29:23 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_008, TRT: 8:29:31 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mora McLean, Section A2019_117_001_009, TRT: 9:19:18 ?