

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joanne Collins

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com  |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Collins, Joanne, 1935-   |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins,   |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | November 7, 2019   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2019   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:44:30).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Political leader and city council member Joanne Collins (1935- ) was the first African American woman elected to the Kansas City council, serving from 1974 to 1991. Collins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 7, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2019_123  |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.  |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political leader and city council member Joanne Collins was born on August 29, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri to William and Mary Frances Mitchell. She attended Attucks Elementary School, Northeast Junior High School, and Sumner High School. Collins attended the University of Kansas from 1953 to 1955, and went on to receive her B.A. degree in political science from Stephens College and her M.A. degree in business administration from Baker University.

After attending the University of Kansas, Collins worked as a postal clerk in Kansas City, Missouri, as a real estate agent for Robert Hughes and Company, and in community outreach at a local bank. During this time, she was an active member in the League of Women Voters and the Missouri and Jackson County Republican committees, and was appointed vice-chair of the Missouri advisory committee for the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In 1974, she was the first African American woman elected to serve on the Kansas City Council. Collins was re-elected to the position in the 1975, 1979, 1983, and 1987 general elections before retiring in 1991. During her tenure as councilwoman, she served as chair of the youth development committee, the community action committee, and the finance and audit committee, and as mayor pro-tem and acting mayor. Collins also worked part-time at United Missouri Bank while on city council.

Collins has volunteered with over fifty organizations. She served on the MOKAN Advisory Board and the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center Advisory Board/KU. She was a member of Salvation Army, Church Women United/KCMO, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and a lifelong member of the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church/KCKS. She was also a member of the Black Women's Political Congress, the National Women's Political Caucus, the Midwest Christian Counseling Center, and the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City.

Collins received the Harriet Tubman Award from A.M.E. Zion in 1976, the Living Legend Award from the Heartland Women's Leadership Council in 2010, and the James C. Denny Spirit Award from the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City in 2013.

Collins has two children, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two step-children, and six step-grandchildren.

Joanne Collins was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 7, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joanne Collins was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 7, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political leader and city council member Joanne Collins (1935- ) was the first African American woman elected to the Kansas City council, serving from 1974 to 1991.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Collins, Joanne, 1935-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Collins, Joanne, 1935---Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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# Occupations:

Political Leader

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City Council Member

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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# 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 Joanne Collins, November 7, 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).

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# 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.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:23 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:38 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:28 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:21 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:59 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:54 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_007, TRT: 7:31:14 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_008, TRT: 8:30:13 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_009, TRT: 9:33:13 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Joanne Collins, Section A2019\_123\_001\_010, TRT: 10:14:07 ?