

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Debra Langford

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Langford, Debra, 1963-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford,
Dates:	November 22, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:00:16).
Abstract:	Television executive Debra Langford (1963-) served as corporate vice president of strategic sourcing for Time Warner and corporate vice president of inclusion and business diversity for NBC Universal before founding The Langford Company in 2012. Langford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 22, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_133
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Television executive Debra Langford was born on March 27, 1963 in Los Angeles, California to Barbara Wilkins and Roland Langford. She earned her B.S. degree in business administration from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business in 1984.

In 1986, Langford was hired by Hanna-Barbera Studios, where she became director of development. In 1988, she joined Warner Bros Television and rose to vice president of current programs, where she was responsible for the show's creative production, including hiring actors/actresses, writers, producers and directors for eleven successful network television series, including, *Growing Pains*, *Night Court*, *Murphy Brown*, *Life Goes On*, *China Beach*, *Kung Fu: The Next Generation* and *The Flash*. From 1993 to 1998, she served as head of television at Quincy Jones and David Salzman Entertainment, overseeing all aspects of development, production and delivery of television series for the production company financed by Time Warner and co-lead by Quincy Jones. Projects included the NBC series, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, NBC/UPN's *In the House*, and Fox Broadcasting Network's *Mad-TV*. In 1998, Langford was hired by Essence Entertainment as general manager and vice president in the new division of *Essence* magazine. Langford joined Urban Entertainment as senior vice president of production and development in 2000; and, in 2002, she joined Time Warner as corporate vice president of strategic sourcing. In 2009, Langford was named corporate vice president of inclusion and business diversity at NBC Universal. She launched The Langford Company in 2012, providing consulting strategies in multicultural marketing, recruitment and retention. In 2013, she joined USC Marshall School of Business as assistant dean of diversity and inclusion.

Langford served as president and vice president of the Southern California chapter of the National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) from 2008 to 2012. She was appointed by President Barack Obama to the USO Board of Governors and served from 2011 to 2016. In 2017, she was appointed by Governor Gray Davis as a board member of the California Film Commission.

Langford was listed in *Ebony* Magazine's Black Women at the Top in 1991 and 1993. In 1995, she was included in *Black Enterprise*'s The New 25 Future Leaders To Watch.

Debra Langford was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 22, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Debra Langford was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 22, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Television executive Debra Langford (1963-) served as corporate vice president of strategic sourcing for Time Warner and corporate vice president of inclusion and business diversity for NBC Universal before founding The Langford Company in 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:

Langford, Debra, 1963-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Langford, Debra, 1963---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Television Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

EntertainmentMakers

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 Debra Langford, November 22, 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 Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_001, TRT: 1:29:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_002, TRT: 2:28:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_003, TRT: 3:30:37 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_004, TRT: 4:31:02 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_005, TRT: 5:30:38 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_006, TRT: 6:32:12 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_007, TRT: 7:29:19 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_008, TRT: 8:18:49 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Debra Langford, Section A2019_133_001_009, TRT: 9:09:01 ?