

African-American Oral History Project Heads to S.A. for Interviews Monday, June 4, 2018

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Sara Luna Ellis

Ivy Taylor is one of the African-American leaders who will be interviewed for The HistoryMakers' video archive.

The HistoryMakers, a nonprofit billed as the nation's largest African-American video oral history archive, will be in San Antonio this week interviewing 11 prominent black leaders.

The group's video shoots will include business, political, educational and military bigwigs ranging from U.S. Air Force cyber-strategist Annette Benging to former Mayor Ivy Taylor.

"When we interview our subjects, we look at their pathway to success, but we're also be looking at family and identity and documenting the African-American experience," said Julieanna L. Richardson, The HistoryMakers' founder.

The organization's 9,000 hours of videos are archived permanently in the Library of Congress. The recordings also will be made available later this year via a searchable database on the library's website.

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So far, Richardson and her crew have done interviews in 32 states.

"This is really our first extended visit to San Antonio," she said. "In many ways, it's a fact-finding mission for us."

In addition to Benging and Taylor, the week's interviewees include:

- William C. Davis, research chemist and professor emeritus at St. Philip's College
- Alfred K. Flowers, retired Air Force general
- Dr. Leonard Lawrence, past president of the National Medical Association
- Adena Williams Loston, president of St. Philip's College
- Aaronetta Pierce, co-founder of Premier Artworks
- Joseph A. Pierce, Jr., co-founder of Premier Artworks
- Mario Marcel Salas, former San Antonio councilman
- Lisa Tatum, first African-American president of the State Bar of Texas
- Lawrence C. Washington, Army Nurse Corps retired colonel

While here, The HistoryMakers also will meet with local institutions such as Our Lady of the Lake University, the University of Texas at San Antonio and the San Antonio Public Library about offering its archived interviews.

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Flowers, William C. Davis, St. Philip's College, National Medical Association, Premier Artworks, State Bar of Texas, Army Nurse Corps, Our Lady of the Lake University, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio Public Library, Julieanna L. Richardson, Library of Congress, Image

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