

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bernice Baynes Brown

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brown, Bernice Baynes, 1935-2009
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown,
Dates:	March 26, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:00:00).
Abstract:	Academic administrator Bernice Baynes Brown (1935 - 2009) served as director and commissioner for the San Francisco Public Schools Commission; as program executive of San Francisco Foundation and as the Dean of Workforce Education for the City College of San Francisco. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 26, 2002, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_032
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and advocate Bernice Baynes Brown was born on June 19, 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Pittsburgh's Perry High School in 1953 before attending Carnegie Mellon University where she earned her B.F.A. She later pursued graduate work in education at the University of Pittsburgh and earned her M.Ed.

She began her career in education teaching art courses at Carlow College in Pittsburgh before relocating to San Francisco, where she lectured in art history at California State University and worked as an Education Specialist for the Bay Area Urban League. In 1968, she joined Lone Mountain College as an Assistant Professor in the Education Department and in just four years became the Dean of Students. In 1976, Brown left Lone Mountain to work for the San Francisco Public Schools Commission as its Director and Commissioner. One year later, she began a ten-year run as the Program Executive for the San Francisco Foundation. For the next four years, Brown served as the Vice-President of Educational Consulting Services for Academic Enterprises while acting as Foundation Administrator for the Clorox Company Foundation.

Brown worked for the City College of San Francisco beginning in 1991. She was the Dean of Faculty and Staff Development and the Campus Dean for the Southeast Campus, and acted as the Dean of Workforce Education.

Throughout her career, she was an active advocate for education. She served as the Chair of the Vocational Educational Advisory Committee for California Schools and Colleges. She sat on the boards of directors of the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the Northern California Grantmakers, the Foundation for Community Service Cable Television, the Women and Foundations/Corporate Philanthropy group, the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society, and the Commonwealth Club of California. She was a Trustee for both the San Francisco Bar Association Foundation and the Schools of the Sacred Hearts. She acted on the Steering

Committee and as the Chair for the Council on Foundations' Pre-Collegiate Education Group. She remained on the boards of Global Educators, Urban Economic Development Corporations and the High Scope Education Research Foundation until the end of her life.

Brown passed away on July 24, 2009 at age 74.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bernice Baynes Brown was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 26, 2002, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator Bernice Baynes Brown (1935 - 2009) served as director and commissioner for the San Francisco Public Schools Commission; as program executive of San Francisco Foundation and as the Dean of Workforce Education for the City College of San Francisco.

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:

Brown, Bernice Baynes, 1935-2009

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Brown, Bernice Baynes, 1935-2009--Interviews

African American educators--California--San Francisco.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

City College of San Francisco

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Bernice Baynes Brown, March 26, 2002. 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 Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002_032_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Bernice Brown was born in 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Henrietta Hodges Baynes, born in in Middletown, Delaware in 1912, and Howard Baynes, born in 1905 in Pittsburgh. Her mother encouraged and nurtured her along with her older brother, Jacques Virgil, and younger sister, Virginia. Her parents divorced in 1949, when Brown was twelve. After serving in World War II, rather than return home to Brown and the rest of his family, her father lived with his mother. Brown attended Robert L. Vanns Elementary school, and when her family moved to an integrated community in Pittsburgh, she attended McNaugher Elementary School and Perry High School, where she was the only African American student. She developed an aptitude for art as a child, which her mother helped nurture. As a child, Brown attended the James Weldon Johnson summer camp for African American children in Pennsylvania, which she describes as having a profound impact on her.

African American soldiers--World War, 1939-1945.

African American mothers--Pennsylvania.

African American families--Pennsylvania.

African American children--Education (Elementary)--Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh.

Raccoon Creek State Park (Pa.).

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002_032_001_002, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Bernice Brown grew up in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was a predominately black area. She developed an interest and talent for art in her youth, and she attended Carnegie Mellon University to study art as one of the few black female students in 1957. After graduation, Brown taught art at Carlow College in Pittsburgh, before getting her Master's degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh. During her education in Pittsburgh in the 1960s, she became involved in Civil Rights activities, and she witnessed changing trends in the attitudes about educating African Americans. After getting married, she and her husband, James Brown, moved to San Francisco, California, where she taught at Lone Mountain College. In 1976, she was appointed Commissioner of the San Francisco Public Schools Commission, and then became Program Executive for the San Francisco Foundation in 1977.

Hill District (Pittsburgh, Pa.).

Carnegie Mellon University.

African American social life and customs--Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh

Public schools--California--San Francisco.

San Francisco College for Women.

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002_032_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Bernice Brown was appointed the Commissioner of the Public Schools Commission in California in 1976, where she describes changing attitudes about the community college system of education. She describes how the community college system developed in California in the 1970s to meet the different needs of communities. A year later, Brown started working for the San Francisco

Foundation for the next ten years until 1987, where she learned about the process and business of the development world. Following the San Francisco Foundation, she worked for the Clorox Company Foundation in 1987, started a consulting business, and then worked for the San Francisco City Colleges since 1991 as the Dean of Faculty and Staff Development and the Dean of Workforce Education.

San Francisco Foundation.

Marin County (Calif.).

Community college administrators--United States.

African American businesswomen.

City College of San Francisco.

Video Oral History Interview with Bernice Baynes Brown, Section A2002_032_001_004, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Bernice Brown reflects on the qualities she has and the steps she took in order to reach this point in her career. She talks about what she wants her legacy to be, to help to set a foundation for the black community. Brown talks about her hopes for the black community, which include supporting education initiatives. Lastly, she credits her mother's influence and nurturing for her success.

African American mothers.

Self-confidence.

African American social life and customs.