

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Howard Dodson

PERSON

Dodson, Howard

Alternative Names: Howard Dodson;

Life Dates: June 1, 1939-

Place of Birth: Chester, Pennsylvania, USA

Residence: Newark, New Jersey

Occupations: Historian; Library Director

Biographical Note

Historian and lecturer Howard Dodson was born June 1, 1939, in Chester, Pennsylvania. After completing high school in 1957, he attended West Chester State College, where he studied social studies and English, with an emphasis on secondary education. Graduating in 1961, he went on to Villanova University where he earned an M.A. in U.S. history and political science in 1963. Currently, Dodson is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Berkeley.

Upon earning his master's degree, Dodson went to Ecuador in 1964 as part of a Peace Corps assignment where he was the director of credit union education programs for the National Credit Union Federation. In 1967, Dodson moved to Washington, D.C., and became the director of minority recruitment and deputy director of campus recruiting for the Peace Corps, where he remained for a year. Dodson became the executive director of the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta in 1974, remaining there until 1979. At the same time, he taught classes at Emory University. Dodson returned to Washington, D.C., in 1979 as a consultant to the National Endowment for the Humanities. However, he remained active with the Institute of the Black World, working as a project director on a number of programs until 1984. After leaving the NEH, Dodson was hired as the director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library. Under his guidance and direction, the Schomburg Center sustained tremendous growth.

Dodson has been active throughout his life in a number of other projects. He was part of the Black Theology Project Conference held in Cuba, which brought Fidel Castro into the religious community for the first time in decades. He has produced a number of exhibitions and festivals celebrating black history and African American life. Dodson is also the author of several books and articles and the recipient of numerous awards,

including being named to the President's Commission on the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Malcolm X Museum Award. He serves on the board of directors of the Apollo Theater Foundation and the UNESCO Slave Route Project, among many others.

Related Entries

Emory University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1975 to 1982]

Instructor

Institute of the Black World [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to 1984]

Project Director

Schomburg Center For Research In Black Culture [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Director

National Credit Union Federation [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2006 to 2010]

Director of Credit Union Education Programs

United States Peace Corps [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1967 to ?]

Director of Minority Recruitment and Deputy Director of Campus Recruiting

Institute of the Black World [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1985 to 1994]

Executive Driector

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1979 to ?]

Consultant