

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Handy Lindsey, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lindsey, Handy, 1952-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr.,
Dates:	February 10, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:10:00).
Abstract:	Foundation executive Handy Lindsey, Jr. (1952 -) was one of the leading African American luminaries in the field of philanthropy, serving as an executive of The Chicago Community Trust, the Field Foundation of Illinois and the Cameron Foundation. Lindsey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 10, 2012, in Petersburg, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_020
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Foundation Executive Handy Lindsey, Jr. was born on March 24, 1952 in Louisville, Mississippi to Pearlie, a homemaker, and Handy Lindsey, Sr., a farm laborer. When he was six years old, his family moved from Louisville to St. Louis, Missouri where he attended first Dunbar and later Howard Elementary before graduating from St. Louis University High School in 1971. Lindsey earned his BA, AM and MBA. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1975 and 1980, respectively. After graduation, Lindsey served as assistant director for Chicago Community Trust. He also served as interim executive director for the East St. Louis Community Foundation in East St. Louis, Illinois. In 1988, Lindsey was appointed executive director of The Field Foundation of Illinois. He became the chief executive officer of the Field Foundation in 1997. The Cameron Foundation in Petersburg, Virginia recruited Lindsey to serve as its president and chief executive officer in 2004.

In 2003, the Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP) established an award honoring Lindsey for his leadership and dedication in advancing racial and ethnic diversity and inclusiveness in the field of philanthropy. In 2003, Lindsey was awarded the 12th Annual James A. Joseph Lecturer on Philanthropy from the Association of Black Foundation Executives. He is currently the Vice Chairman of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO) and has served as a board member for the Southeastern Council of Foundations and board chairman for the Donors Forum of Chicago. Lindsey was also vice chairman for the Association of Black Foundation Executives. Lindsey has over thirty years of experience in philanthropy, having served as principal architect and manager for three separate foundations. He has been featured in *Ebony* Magazine as a leader in his field. Lindsey completed his doctoral coursework at the University of Chicago's School of Social Services Administration in 2000. He is married to Kristin R. Lindsey and has two adult sons, Josef and Marshall.

Handy Lindsey, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 10, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 10, 2012, in Petersburg, Virginia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Foundation executive Handy Lindsey, Jr. (1952 -) was one of the leading African American luminaries in the field of philanthropy, serving as an executive of The Chicago Community Trust, the Field Foundation of Illinois and the Cameron Foundation.

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:

Lindsey, Handy, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lindsey, Handy, 1952- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Foundation Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Handy Lindsey, Jr., February 10, 2012. 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 Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_001, TRT: 1:29:10 ?

Handy Lindsey, Jr. was born on March 24, 1952 in Leflore County, Mississippi to Pearl Colem an Lindsey and Handy Lindsey, Sr. Lindsey's paternal great-grandfather, Handy Jackson, was a travelling minister from Cairo, Illinois. His daughter, Inez Jackson Lindsey, married Lindsey's paternal grandfather, General Lee Lindsey. They worked as sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta, where his paternal grandfather's ancestors had been enslaved. Lindsey's father left the plantation as a young man, after he fought the landowner's son for referring to

him with racial slurs. He fled Memphis, Tennessee and then to Detroit, Michigan; and eventually returned to Mississippi. There, he married Lindsey's mother, who was the thirteen year old daughter of sharecroppers Fannie Mae Wraggs Haney and Marshall Coleman. When Lindsey was six years old, his mother and maternal grandmother decided to move to St. Louis, Missouri. Fearing that he would become unemployed there, Lindsey's father decided to remain in Mississippi.

Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_002, TRT: 2:29:38
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Handy Lindsey, Jr. moved to St. Louis, Missouri at the age of six years old. He lived with his mother, Pearlie Coleman Lindsey, and sisters, Margaret Lindsey Crawford and Helen Lindsey, in St. Louis' Hillside neighborhood. His mother struggled to support the family, and they moved to a different apartment every few months. Lindsey attended Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School until the sixth grade, when he transferred to Curtis Elementary School. There, he received high grades and was encouraged by his teachers. With their help, he enrolled at St. Louis University High School, a majority-white Jesuit college preparatory school. Around this time, Lindsey also moved into the home of his Boy Scout troop leader, Richard Brischof, to escape his mother's physical abuse. Influenced by Brischof and the Jesuit priests at St. Louis University High School, Lindsey converted to Catholicism and decided to devote his career to community service.

Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_003, TRT: 3:29:39
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Handy Lindsey, Jr. attended St. Louis University High School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was required to complete a community service project during his senior year. He partnered with his African American classmates to found the Black Assistance Union, which provided financial support to black students at private schools throughout St. Louis. Upon graduating in 1971, Lindsey enrolled at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. There, he worked in the university libraries, and earned a degree in sociology in 1975. He then obtained a position as a counselor for chronically ill teenagers at La Rabida Children's Hospital in Chicago. Unable to cope with the deaths of his clients, Lindsey returned after three years to the University of Chicago, where he enrolled in concurrent master's degree programs at the School of Social Service Administration and the Graduate School of Business. Lindsey also talks about the University of Chicago's relationship with groups like The Woodlawn Organization.

Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_004, TRT: 4:29:30
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Handy Lindsey, Jr. Lindsey returned to the University of Chicago in the late 1970s. He completed concurrent master's degrees at the School of Social Service Administration and the Graduate School of Business. While still attending graduate classes, Lindsay began his career as a senior program officer at The Chicago Community Trust. He went on to direct the Chicago Area Foundation for Legal Services, which was one of the trust's support foundations. He also joined the Association of Black Foundation Executives around this time. Then, Lindsey placed on assignment with Associated Black Charities, where he helped found the East St. Louis Community Fund in East St. Louis, Illinois. He returned to The Chicago Community Trust as its assistant director, and was instrumental in the development of the Chicago Cultural Plan. Lindsey also remembers meeting his first wife, Rachel Washington Lindsey, at the University

of Chicago. Together, they had two sons, Josef Lindsey and Marshall Lindsey.

Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_005, TRT: 5:34:34
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Handy Lindsey, Jr. was recruited to serve as the assistant director of The Chicago Community Trust under Director Bruce L. Newman, a white executive whose efforts to diversify philanthropy bolstered the careers of Joan Wood, Adrienne Bailey and Aurie Pennick. Lindsey left The Chicago Community Trust in 1988 to become the chief staff officer of the Field Foundation of Illinois. There, Lindsey worked to diversify the foundation's grant awards, which were previously given mostly to larger institutions and projects that were already funded by The Chicago Community Trust. Lindsey increased on-site visits to funded projects, provided information sessions for grant seekers, and encouraged calls to the foundation. He also spoke at the Donors Forum of Chicago, and provided advice and technical support to organizations that were denied grants. Due to his success at The Chicago Community Trust, Lindsey was recruited to join the Cameron Foundation in Petersburg, Virginia.

Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_006, TRT: 6:29:13
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Handy Lindsey, Jr. served as the chief staff officer of the Field Foundation of Illinois. During his tenure, the foundation worked with school principals to improve public education in Chicago, Illinois, and funded grants that led to the creation of an all-girls public school and a new Catholic academy in the Pilsen neighborhood. However, resistance from the Chicago Public Schools' central administration prevented further collaborations with individual schools. In 2004, Lindsey moved to Petersburg, Virginia to become the CEO of the Cameron Foundation. The foundation was originally endowed with the proceeds from the sale of the Southside Regional Medical Center to Community Health Systems, and grew under Lindsey's leadership. His early projects included the Algebra Project in the Petersburg City Public Schools. Lindsey talks about his family, including his second wife, Kristin Anderson Lindsey. He also reflects upon his life and how he would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Handy Lindsey, Jr., Section A2012_020_001_007, TRT: 7:08:16
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Handy Lindsey, Jr. narrates his photographs.