

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Shirley Anne Massey

PERSON

**Massey, Shirley Anne**

**Alternative Names:** Shirley Anne Massey;

**Life Dates:** August 14, 1942-

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Chicago, Illinois

**Occupations:** Civic Leader

## Biographical Note

Civic leader Shirley Anne Massey was born on August 14, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois. She was the younger of two children born to parents, Anne Johnson, a laundress, and William Streeter, a janitor. Massey attended St. Anslem Grammar School and Holy Cross Grammar School before graduating from Chicago Loretto Academy, which was an all-girls Roman Catholic high school, in 1960. She then enrolled in Chicago Teachers College where she studied education.

In 1962, Massey was hired to work as an accountant at the Playboy club. Then, from 1964 to 1969, she served as a reservationist for Trans World Airlines (TWA). Since then, Massey has committed much of her life to causes for youth and culture. From 1995, Shirley Massey served as First Lady of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Committed to the college, Massey worked alongside her husband, Walter Massey, who served as the ninth president of Morehouse from 1995 to 2007 and also as the president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 2010.

President of the Morehouse Auxiliary, Massey spearheaded the Morehouse College Beautification Committee. She also served on the board of Salzburg Seminar, ARCS Foundation, and the University of Chicago Women's Board. Her previous affiliations include serving as a board member of the Atlanta Ballet, founding member of the Chicago Foundation for Education, board member of the Great Books Foundation, member of the Women's Board of the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, member of the Women's board of the Chicago Symphony and founding member of the Museum of Science and Industry President's Council.

In 2012, the Executive Conference Center building on the campus of Morehouse was renamed as the Shirley A. Massey Executive Conference Center in her honor.

Massey and her husband have two sons, Keith and Eric, and three grandchildren. They remain active in cultural and civic organizations in Chicago and beyond.

Shirley Anne Massey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 24, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Holy Cross Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**St. Anselm's School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Loretto Academy Catholic High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chicago State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Playboy Enterprises, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1962 to 1964]

**Accountant**

**Trans World Airlines** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1964 to 1969]

**Reservationist**

**Museum of Science and Industry President's Council** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founding Member**

**University of Chicago** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1981 to 1989]

**Women's Board Member**

**Chicago Foundation For Education** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1985 to 1989]

**Founding Member**

**ARCS Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1993 to 1995]

**Board Member**

**Salzburg Global Seminar** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1993 to 2010]

**Board Member**

**ARCS Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1995 to 2007]

**Board Member**

**Morehouse College** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1995 to 2007]

**Atlanta Ballet** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1998 to 2005]

**Board Member**

**ARCS Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2007 to 2012]

**Board Member**

**Options For Youth** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to ?]

**Board Member**