

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hubie Jones

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jones, Hubie, 1933-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones,
Dates:	October 14, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:10:55).
Abstract:	Social worker and academic administrator Hubie Jones (1933 -) was the first African American dean at Boston University. Jones also served as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Urban Affairs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and founded the Boston Children's Chorus. Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 14, 2004, in Newton, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_203
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Hubert Eugene Jones, better known as “Hubie,” shaped and defined the civic and social landscape of Boston for more than forty-five years. He played a leadership role in the formation, building and rebuilding of at least thirty community organizations within Boston’s Black community and across all neighborhoods in the city.

Born in the Bronx neighborhood of New York City on December 13, 1933, Jones came to Boston in 1955 after graduating from the City College of New York. Growing up in the South Bronx, he was inspired by his mother Dorcas, who earned her high school diploma, a B.A. degree and a master’s degree after raising him and his siblings. His father, Hilma, a Pullman Porter, was also an inspiration as he worked along side A. Philip Randolph in organizing the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Randolph even gave the eulogy at his father’s funeral. At CCNY, Jones was inspired by the famed psychologist Dr. Kenneth Clark, whose psychological studies with Black and White children helped bring about the 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

After receiving a master’s in social work from Boston University, Jones moved through a series of positions in Boston social work agencies. Starting at Boston Children’s Services in 1957, he left for Judge Baker Guidance Center in 1961, and in 1965, he became the director of the Roxbury Multiservice Center, where he remained until 1971. Under Jones, RMC became a national model for neighborhood-based social services for low-income city residents.

While serving as RMC’s director in 1967, Jones noticed a pattern of children who were not going to school in Boston. He led a formal investigation and published a scathing indictment of the Boston Public Schools for systematically excluding 10,000 children because they were physically or mentally disabled, had behavioral problems, did not speak English or were pregnant. The task force report, *The Way We Go to School: The Exclusion of Children in Boston*, led to the groundbreaking enactments of two landmark laws in Massachusetts, the Special

Education Law and the Bilingual Education Law, to protect the rights of and give appropriate education services and instruction to special needs children. The task force, chaired by Jones, became known as the Massachusetts Advocacy Center, now the Massachusetts Advocates for Children.

Jones spent the 1971-1972 year as the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Community Fellow at MIT, and from 1972 until 1977 he was an associate professor in the department of urban studies and planning at MIT. He then became the first African American appointed to a deanship at Boston University, serving as the dean of the School of Social Work from 1977 to 1993. Between 1995 and 2002, Jones served as special assistant to the chancellor for urban affairs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. In 2002, he founded the Boston Children's Chorus, consisting of eighty young people from diverse ethnic and socio-economical backgrounds.

Jones has been honored numerous times for his dedication to children's advocacy, and friends and colleagues have established The Hubie Fund, to benefit ongoing social concerns in Boston.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Hubie Jones was conducted by Robert Hayden on October 14, 2004, in Newton, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Social worker and academic administrator Hubie Jones (1933 -) was the first African American dean at Boston University. Jones also served as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Urban Affairs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and founded the Boston Children's Chorus.

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:

Jones, Hubie, 1933-

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Jones, Hubie, 1933---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Boston University. School of Social Work

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 Hubie Jones, October 14, 2004. 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 Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_001, TRT: 0:31:13 ?

Hubie Jones was born on December 13, 1933 at home in the Bronx, New York, New York. His mother, Dorcas Robinson Jones, was born in 1900 and grew up in Abbeville, South Carolina. Following a neighbor's lynching in 1916, her family fled to the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There, Jones' mother learned an ethic of hospitality from the family who welcomed her that carried into Jones' childhood. Although Jones' mother did not complete high school, she simultaneously worked multiple jobs and studied at night to eventually earn her master's degree. His mother then became an early childhood educator and purchased her own home. His father, Hilma Jones, was born in 1898 in Springfield, Missouri. He was a porter for The Pullman Car Company for forty-four years. Jones' father served as a legal advocate for other porters through the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He was also a personal tax accountant for other porters and the community at large. Jones' maternal uncle's cousin was author Ralph Ellison.

Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_002, TRT: 0:31:09 ?

Hubie Jones grew up in the South Bronx area of New York City during the 1930s and 1940s while the neighborhood changed from a strong working-class black community to one where absentee landlords neglected to maintain buildings or services. Jones attended elementary school at P.S. 023 The New Children's School, then middle school at P.S. 051 Bronx New School. He was elected class vice president at Morris High School. Jones matriculated at City College of New York, where he was mentored by Dr. Kenneth Bancroft Clark. He first learned of social work through a community service internship required by a sophomore sociology course. After graduating in 1955, he began his master's degree at Boston University School of Social Work in Massachusetts. In 1956, Jones was inspired to change society by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s oratory at the Ford Hall Forum. Jones' father was a committed volunteer for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and A. Philip Randolph delivered the eulogy at his funeral in 1961.

Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_003, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Hubie Jones organized the Stop Day work strike against racial discrimination in Boston, Massachusetts in 1963. Jones, HistoryMaker Melvin King and supporters from the Boston Northern Student Movement succeeded in drawing over one thousand people to the rally despite the objections of the local NACCP leadership. Jones left his post at Boston Children's Service Association to work with delinquent children in Newton, Massachusetts through the Judge Baker Guidance Clinic. He was hired as assistant director of Action for Boston Community Development, despite attempts by white political leaders to stop his appointment. Jones helped establish three neighborhood service centers, including the Roxbury Multi-Service Center. There, Jones set up the Task Force on Children Out of School in 1967 upon discovering the systematic exclusion of children of color from Boston Public Schools. Jones also recalls the birth order

of his eight children and the decision to move the family to Newton for its superior school system.

Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_004, TRT: 0:31:03 ?

Hubie Jones helped to pass the groundbreaking special education laws, Massachusetts Chapter 766 and the Transitional Bilingual Education Act, through the Task Force on Children Out of School. He served as executive director of the Roxbury Multi-Service Center in Boston, Massachusetts through the riots of 1967 and 1968. In 1971, he became one of the initial Mel King Community Fellows at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He lost his primary bid for U.S. congressional representative that year and accepted an associate professorship at MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning instead. In 1977, he became dean of the Boston University School of Social Work in Boston. During his tenure, he established a new faculty and distance education programs. In 1992, Jones served eight months as acting president of Roxbury Community College in Boston. He facilitated the school's reaccreditation and negotiations for a new track field. Jones left his Boston University deanship in 1993.

Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_005, TRT: 0:26:30 ?

Hubie Jones founded and chaired the Massachusetts Advocates for Children in 1973. From 1992 to 1995, he was a senior fellow at the John W. McCormack Institute for Public Affairs at University of Massachusetts Boston. He was also a senior advisor to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation between 1993 and 1999. Jones left McCormack to assist the university chancellor in developing civic outreach. He created a City to City program for Boston's leaders to learn from other cities. He initiated a community partnership with the university, local organizations and residents in developing the Columbia Point area. Jones helped Julian Houston found Roxbury Youthworks, which provides educational and work opportunities to youth in the Boston court system. Jones helped to found the Roxbury Community College Foundation and many other civic organizations. He retired in 2001. At the time of the interview, Jones had recently organized the Boston Children's Chorus to facilitate friendships between children of varied backgrounds.

Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_006, TRT: 0:27:50 ?

Hubie Jones was a panelist on 'Five on Five,' a news commentary program that ran for twenty years on WCVB-TV Channel 5 in Boston, Massachusetts. Jones was the first African American to have a regular position as a televised news analyst. After appearing part-time and sharing a seat with Doris Kearns Goodwin, Jones replaced full-time panelist John Kerry when he left the show to run for lieutenant governor. In 2003, Jones was awarded an honorary doctorate of public service from the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Jones shares lessons he has learned about collaboration and partnership for effective civic advancement. He also reflects upon his life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered. Jones concludes by explaining how his father's life inspired his achievements.

Video Oral History Interview with Hubie Jones, Section A2004_203_001_007, TRT: 0:12:10 ?

Hubie Jones narrates his photographs.