Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sandra Marian Ann Grymes

Grymes, Sandra

Alternative Names: Sandra Marian Ann Grymes;

Life Dates: , -

Place of Birth: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Residence: Oak Bluffs, MA

Occupations: Civic Leader

Biographical Note

Born in 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Grymes was the daughter of Jeanette and Leon Grymes. On her mother's side of the family, Grymes was a cousin to the famed and legendary singer Marian Anderson; Grymes and Anderson's nephew, James DePriest, have been involved with legacy work for the singer for over thirty years.

Grymes graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1956; she earned her A.B. degree in sociology from Temple University; her master's degree in social services from Bryn Mawr in 1962; and her master's degree in business administration from Baruch College in 1984.

From 1973 to 1976, Grymes was employed in the New York City Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation – first as a senior consultant and later as acting director of the department's Office of Standards and Review. From 1977 to 1988, Grymes held five top level positions at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in New York City, moving finally to the positions of director of long range planning, director of special projects, and, finally, marketing director. Grymes's next position, held from 1988 to 1993, was as the manager of health services for the American Red Cross of Greater New York. From 1993 to 1995, Grymes was the senior deputy commissioner at the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Alcoholism Services. In 1996, Grymes became an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at the New School for Social Research in New York City.

Grymes devoted many years of service as a director of the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center, and the Marian Anderson Award in Philadelphia. With DePriest, Grymes helped to establish the Marian Anderson

Memorial Center at the University of Pennsylvania Library. Throughout her career, Grymes worked extensively in high level management positions in the non-profit and government sectors in New York City throughout the period between 1973 and 1995; her volunteer work and contributions to arts organizations, visual and musical, are notable.

In a state of semi-retirement, dividing her time between Martha's Vineyard and New York City, Grymes remained the managing director of Guided Solutions, which consulted with agencies such as the Puerto Rican Family Institute in New York and the Tuskegee Institute's National Center for Bioethics on issues related to health care and education on the community level.

Related Entries

[STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Cooke Jay Ms [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Philadelphia High School for Girls [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Baruch College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

   MBA

Temple University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

   A.B.

Bryn Mawr College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

   Master's Degree

Bryn Mawr College Child Study Institute [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

   Researcher/Social Worker

Urban League [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

NYU Child Study Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

   Researcher

Guided Solutions [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

    Managing Director/Founder

New York City Department of Mental Health [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 19761995]

    Management

Planned Parenthood Federation of America [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1988]

    Social Worker; Management

American Red Cross of Greater New York [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1993]

    Management

The New School for Social Research [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to ?]

    Adjunct Professor

Studio Museum in Harlem [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

    Director

Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Marian Anderson Memorial Center at the University of Pennsylvania Library
[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Marian Anderson Awards in Philadelphia [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]