

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Harry Robinson, Jr.

PERSON

Robinson, Harry, 1941-

Alternative Names: Harry Robinson, Jr.;

Life Dates: September 16, 1941-

Place of Birth: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Residence: Dallas, TX

Work: Dallas, TX

Occupations: Curator; Museum Executive

Biographical Note

Museum director, Harry Robinson, Jr. was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 16, 1941. His mother, Ruth, and father, Harry Sr., raised their family in Raceland Louisiana, where Robinson attended Pitman and Kent Hadley elementary schools. The family moved to Thibodaux, Louisiana the year Robinson entered high school. He attended C.M. Washington High School where he came under the tutelage of his industrial arts teacher. However, health reasons prompted Robinson to instead major in history and minor in library science, and he received his B.A. degree from Southern University in 1964.

Robinson attended graduate school at Atlanta University and majored in Library Science. It is here where Robinson researched volumes of African American history making him a legend in his field. Robinson received his M.S.L.S. degree in 1965 from Atlanta University and returned to Southern University to continue his work as an archivist. Robinson went on to become a cataloger at Kentucky State University and worked at the University of Florida.

After earning his Ed.D in 1969 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and heading up special collections for Alabama State University, Robinson joined Bishop College in Dallas as librarian and museum director in 1974. With his negotiation skills, Robinson was able to acquire many collections for the museum. Under his leadership, a new facility was built in 1984 as Fair Park in Dallas to house the collection. The collection includes African American decorative arts, Sepia Magazine's photo archive and the carefully researched archaeological specimens of the Freedmen's Cemetery Collection. Robinson has developed the African American Museum in Dallas into a

nationally recognized destination for people from all over the world.

Robinson lives in Dallas, Texas. He is the President of the Association of African American Museums, the African American Library Association and a member of the Institute of Museum and Library Science.

Related Entries

C.M. Washington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Kent Hadley Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Pitman Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Clark Atlanta University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Southern University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Kentucky State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to 1966]

Prairie View A & M University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Professor

Alabama State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bishop College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Museum Director

African American Museum in Dallas [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to ?]

director

African American Museum in Dallas [MEMBEROF]
[from 1979 to ?]

Founder