

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carla Hayden

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com   |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Hayden, Carla Diane, 1952-  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | July 16, 2010   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2010  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:09:06).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Librarian Carla Hayden (1952 - ) has served numerous library systems and fought for civil liberties and freedom of information. She was appointed the 14th Librarian of Congress in 2016. Hayden was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 16, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2010_082   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Library Director and Administrator Carla Hayden was born on August 10, 1952. She received her B.A. degree from Roosevelt University and began work as a library assistant at the Chicago Public Library in 1973. She later received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago's Graduate Library School.

She worked as library service coordinator for the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science. In 1991, she returned to Chicago where she worked as the Chicago Public Library System's deputy commissioner and chief librarian. She is also the second African American to become the executive director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, one of the oldest free libraries in the United States. Hayden was elected president of the American Library Association in 2003. She succeeded in getting Attorney General John Ashcroft to declassify reports on the Act's provisions and eventually, through her efforts and the efforts of other civil liberties organizations, the section of the Act that allowed the F.B.I. to demand private individuals' library records was rescinded.

Hayden has continually championed the cause of civil liberties and freedom of information. She spearheaded the A.L.A.'s efforts to overturn legislation that forced all libraries receiving federal funding to install internet content filters on their computers. Eventually the Supreme Court upheld the right of adult library users to request the filter's deactivation, though they did not overturn the requirement that the filters be installed. Hayden has worked with the A.L.A. to publicize and uphold the right to deactivate the filter.

She has been honored with the Andrew White Medal by Loyola College, the President's Medal by Johns Hopkins University, and the Legacy of Literacy Award by the DuBois Circle of Baltimore. Hayden was named one of Ms. Magazine's 2003 Women of the Year and one of Maryland's Top 100 Women of Maryland. She is also the first African American to receive the Librarian of the Year Award from Library Journal Magazine. She is a member of the Boards of the Maryland African American Museum Corporation, Goucher College, Franklin and Eleanor

Roosevelt Institute and Library and Maryland Historical Society.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carla Hayden was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 16, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Librarian Carla Hayden (1952 - ) has served numerous library systems and fought for civil liberties and freedom of information. She was appointed the 14th Librarian of Congress in 2016.

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# 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®.

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# 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.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Hayden, Carla Diane, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hayden, Carla Diane, 1952- --Interviews

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African American librarians—Illinois—Chicago--Interviews.

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African American librarians—Maryland—Baltimore--Interviews.

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African American librarians.

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Librarian

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## 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 Carla Hayden, July 16, 2010. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_001, TRT: 0:03:36 ?

Carla Hayden was born on August 10th, 1952 in Tallahassee, Florida. Her mother, Colleen Dowling Hayden, was born in Helena, Arkansas, where her family had a peanut farm. She moved to Champaign, Illinois when her father got a job with the railroad. Hayden's maternal grandfather, Jerry Dowling, was biracial and her maternal grandmother's, Zelia Dowling, first marriage was to a white steamship captain. Her father, Bruce Hayden, Jr., grew up in Tuscola, Illinois, where his father was a postal worker. Hayden's paternal grandmother's family, the Holmeses, were featured in Ruby Goodwin's 'It's Good to be Black.' Her paternal grandmother's great-aunt had her hand broken with a hairbrush while enslaved, which disabled her for life. She visited her paternal grandparents every August in Springfield, Illinois, where the family moved to from Tuscola so Bruce Hayden, Jr. could attend high school with more black students. Hayden's parents met while studying music at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois.

Children of divorced parents.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University--Faculty

Sex discrimination against men--Social aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:39 ?

Carla Hayden's parents met while studying music in college, then married and moved to Tallahassee, Florida for her father's job at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University under HistoryMaker William Foster. As a small child, Hayden was saved from drowning in Florida by her father. The family moved to New York, New York, and Hayden's father played jazz violin as a studio musician while Hayden's mother taught music. Hayden took piano lessons and sang but thought she had no gift for music, so she quit at twelve years old. She had a passion for reading, particularly loving Marguerite de Angeli's 'Bright April,' one of few children's books at the time about an African American girl. While visiting her paternal grandparents in Springfield, Illinois, Hayden met Margaret Pendergast, a black librarian at the Illinois State Library. She attended Public School 96 in New York, New York, and St. Edmund School when she moved to Chicago, Illinois. Hayden's parents divorced when she was ten.

Jazz musicians.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University--Faculty

Children of divorced parents.

Millikin University--Alumni and alumnae.

Children's literature, American--Social aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_003, TRT: 0:28:54 ?

Carla Hayden's parents divorced partly due to disagreeing over whether it was appropriate to raise a daughter amid the New York, New York jazz scene. Afterwards, Hayden moved with her mother to Chicago, Illinois. She enrolled at St. Edmund's School, which offered a Great Books program where she read works like 'Antigone' in seventh and eighth grade. She continued to be interested in music and went to concerts for the Jackson Five and Prince during their early careers. Hayden started at South Shore High School in Chicago in 1967, when the student body was split between blacks and whites; there, she got good grades, sang in the choir and refused to attend prom due to her growing rebelliousness against institutions. Her father, Bruce Hayden, Jr. moved to Chicago to teach at Malcolm X College and play jazz with Cannonball Adderley. As a teenager, Hayden read as much work as she could find from HistoryMaker Haki Madhubuti's Third World Press and was uncertain about

future plans past attending college.

Children of divorced parents.

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church (Chicago, Ill.)

Race riots--Illinois--Chicago--20th Century.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_004, TRT: 0:27:03 ?

Carla Hayden chose to attend MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois due to its proximity to relatives and to live with her best friend; she disliked the area so after a year, she transferred to Roosevelt University in Chicago. At Roosevelt, she majored in history and political science, attended a speech by Stokely Carmichael and met her future husband. After graduation, Hayden was hired by the Chicago Public Library system, initially as an assistant children's librarian in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood and then at Carter G. Woodson Regional Library under her mentor, Annie Lee Carroll. She achieved a master's degree and then a doctorate in library science at the University of Chicago, where she studied under Zena Sutherland, an expert in children's literature, which Hayden focused on out of her belief that literature is deeply impactful for young children. She was recruited to teach library science at the University of Pittsburgh, where she joined black library scholars E.J. Josey and Spencer G. Shaw.

University of Chicago--Alumni and alumnae.

University of Pittsburgh--Faculty.

Roosevelt University--Alumni and alumnae.

MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill.--Alumni and alumnae.

African American librarians.

Librarianship and information studies—Social Aspects.

Children's libraries.

Library administration—Illinois—Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:31 ?

Carla Hayden taught library science at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania for four years, then returned to Chicago, Illinois in 1991 to become the chief librarian for the Chicago Public Library. She worked with Dolores Woods to create a permanent exhibit commemorating Harold Washington at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago, supported by funding from HistoryMaker John H. Johnson. In 1993, Hayden became the CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland in order to work in a more politically independent structure and rebuild the institution. At Pratt, she worked with Stanley Butler, head of the National Association of Black Storytellers. Hayden was elected as president of the American Library Association in 2003, with HistoryMaker Tavis Smiley as one of her main backers, on the platform of increasing library access. She opposed provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act that allow the government to search and confiscate library records without cause and without notifying the suspect.

University of Pittsburgh--Faculty.

American Library Association--Administration.

Library science--Professional ethics.

Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago Public Library)

Enoch Pratt Free Library.

United States. Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act

of 2001--Social aspects.

Video Oral History Interview with Carla Hayden, Section A2010\_082\_001\_006, TRT: 0:10:23 ?

Carla Hayden describes her hopes for the future of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland. These include the expansion of citizens' access to computers, the construction of new amenities at the library and the development of new programs for those who do their reading on tablets. She reflects upon her life and legacy. Hayden talks about her mother's pride in her career as a librarian and her future plans to return to a library science teaching position. She outlines her advice for those who would pursue a career in library science and describes her plans for the future. Hayden reflects upon her life and legacy, and she concludes by describing how she would like to be remembered.

University of Maryland--Faculty.

Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Library users--Effect of technological innovations on.

Library orientation--Technological innovations--United States.