

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jacquelyn Shropshire

PERSON

Shropshire, Jacquelyn

**Alternative Names:** Jacquelyn Shropshire;

**Life Dates:** September 15, 1935-

**Place of Birth:** Kansas City, Missouri, USA

**Residence:** New York, NY

**Occupations:** Civic Leader; Non-profit Executive

## Biographical Note

Civic leader and non-profit executive Jacquelyn Shropshire was born on September 15, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was the first member of her family to attend college, and graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1957 with her B.S. degree in business and economics.

Upon graduation, Shropshire was hired by Trans World Airlines, where she became the company's first African American employee in an administrative position. Shropshire then worked as a teacher in the Kansas City public school system until 1961, when she married Thomas B. Shropshire and moved to New York. She went on to receive her M.A. degree in education from Hunter College, and was hired as a teacher in the New York City public school system. Then, in 1968, Shropshire moved with her husband to Lagos, Nigeria, where she helped organize the first American Women's Club, and also founded Fancy That, a newsletter for women.

In 1972, Shropshire's family moved from Nigeria to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she began thirty years of service with the Milwaukee Urban League, first as a volunteer, and then as executive director. Shropshire also founded and served as president of Momentum Unlimited of Milwaukee, a firm specializing in management development, public relations and special event planning. In 2003, she organized and became board chairman of the Las Vegas Urban League, and, in 2012, she helped establish The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Shropshire has served on the boards of the Milwaukee Urban League, University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee); Women's Business Initiative Corporation (YWCA); The Next Door Foundation; American Red Cross; National Endowment for the Arts Advisory Committee; Milwaukee Historical Society; Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors

Bureau; African World Festival; Inner City Arts Council; The Curative Workshop of Milwaukee; the Joint Center of Political Studies in Washington, D.C.; and The Smith Center for the Performing Arts. She also organized the first African American debutante cotillion with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and was the first African American female corporate chairman of Wisconsin for the United Negro College Fund.

Shropshire has received numerous awards for her civic work, including the Caucus of African Americans Trailblazer Award; the Alpha Kappa Alpha Outstanding Contributions to the Black Family Award; the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (The Boulé) Judge William “Turk” Thompson Legacy Award; the Las Vegas–Clark County Black History Visionary Award; and the E-Vibe Phenomenal Woman Award. She was also named “A Woman of Excellence” by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation. In 2001, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee passed a resolution naming a Jacquelyn C. Shropshire Family Literacy Center in Memphis, Tennessee at the Goodwill International School for Boys and Girls.

Jacquelyn Shropshire was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 25, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Lincoln University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Hunter College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Lincoln High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**H.S.**

**Garrison School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Kansas City Public School System** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1969 to ?]

**Teacher**

**New York City Public School System** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 197409 to 197711]

**Teacher**

**Milwaukee Urban League** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1968 to 1976]

**Executive Director**

**Fancy That** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1971 to 1980]

**Founder**

**Momentum Unlimited of Milwaukee** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1983]

**Founder and President**

**Trans World Airlines** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1957 to ?]

**American Women's Club** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Organizer**

**Milwaukee Urban League** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee)** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Women's Business Initiative Corporation (YWCA)** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Next Door Foundation** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**American Red Cross** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Advisory Committee** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Milwaukee Historical Society** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**African World Festival** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Inner City Arts Council** [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Curative Workshop of Milwaukee** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Joint Center of Political Studies** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2003 to 2012]

**Board Member**

**Wisconsin for the United Negro College Fund** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2003 to 2012]

**Corporate Chairman**

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2003 to 2012]

**Organizer of the African American Debutante Cotillion**

**Las Vegas Urban League** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2003 to ?]

**Organizer and Board Chairman**

**Smith Center for the Performing Arts** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2012 to ?]

**Founder and Board Member**