

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alysia Tate

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Tate, Alysia Diane, 1972-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 10, 2018 and October 21, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014 and 2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:51:46).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalist Alysia Tate (1972 - ) was the editor and publisher of The Chicago Reporter. She also served as a policy advisor and speechwriter for Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Tate was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 10, 2018 and October 21, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_252
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Alysia Diane Tate was born on August 7, 1972 in Denver, Colorado. Her mother, Tamra Tate, was a journalist; her father, George Tate, a counselor, professor and former minister. Tate grew up in Denver, Colorado where she attended Park Hill Elementary School, Smiley Middle School, and East High School. In 1994, she graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois with her B.S. degree in journalism.

Upon graduation, Tate was hired as a reporter for the *Daily Herald* in Chicago, Illinois. Then, in 1998, she moved to *The Chicago Reporter*, where she worked as a reporter before being promoted to senior editor. In 2001, Tate was appointed editor and publisher of *The Chicago Reporter*, where she led the editorial, fundraising and marketing efforts of the publication. From 2008 to 2011, she served as chief operating officer of the Community Renewal Society, a faith-based, social justice organization that publishes two independent magazines, including *The Chicago Reporter*. In 2013, Tate was hired as a policy advisor and speechwriter for Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. In addition, she has worked as a project and communications consultant, whose clients have included the Chicago Community Trust, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation and the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Education.

Tate has been active in a number of civic organizations, including the Chicago Network, Leadership Greater Chicago, and Re-evaluation Counseling, an international, volunteer-based peer counseling and social change organization. She served on the board of DePaul University's Institute for Business and Professional Ethics, and has served on the advisory board of *Illinois Issues*, a public affairs magazine published by the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Tate also served on the Local School Council of the William H. Ray Elementary School in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood.

Tate has received recognition for her work including the Clarion Award from the National Association for Women in Communications; the Unity Award in Media from Lincoln University; and the Award of Excellence from the

Chicago Association of Black Journalists. She was listed as one of *Ebony* magazine's leaders to watch in 2008; was a Leadership Greater Chicago fellow in 2004; and was included in the 2002 "40 Under 40" listing in *Crain's Chicago Business*. Tate also served as an Edgar Fellow in 2014, joining a bi-partisan group of emerging leaders exploring policy issues affecting the state of Illinois

Alysia Tate was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 21, 2014.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alysia Tate was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 10, 2018 and October 21, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist Alysia Tate (1972 - ) was the editor and publisher of The Chicago Reporter. She also served as a policy advisor and speechwriter for Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

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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:

Tate, Alysia Diane, 1972-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Feldman, Isaac (Videographer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Tate, Alysia Diane, 1972---Interviews

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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:

Journalist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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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 Alysia Tate, June 10, 2018 and October 21, 2014.  
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 Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_001\_001, TRT: 1:27:39 ?

Alysia Tate was born on August 7, 1972 in Denver, Colorado to Tamra Wood Tate and George Tate. Her maternal grandparents, Ruth Jones Wood and Ernest Wood, were both born to dairy farmers in Kansas, and met at a teachers college. They raised their family in Garnett, Kansas. Tate's grandfather served in the U.S. military and opened a hardware store in Garnett, before moving the family to Colorado Springs, Colorado. There, he worked for the Sherwin-Williams Company, while Tate's mother attended high school. Tate's paternal grandparents, Carrie Johnson Tate and Godfrey Tate, lived in Staunton, Virginia, where her grandfather was a deliveryman and traveling minister. Her father attended Clark Atlanta University, and decided to study religion because chemistry was not offered. After a brief career as a minister in Chicago, Illinois, Tate's father became frustrated with segregation and left the church. He went on to manage a mental health center in Denver, Colorado, where he met and married Tate's mother.

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:39 ?

Alysia Tate grew up in the Park Hill neighborhood of Denver, Colorado. When she was three years old, her parents, Tamra Wood Tate and George Tate, decided to divorce because of the social backlash against their interracial marriage. Tate spent most of her time with her mother, and visited her father on the weekends. He was a professor at the University of Northern Colorado, where she sometimes accompanied him to class. Tate began her education at Park Hill Elementary School, where she was placed in the advanced track. The school district implemented a busing initiative when Tate was in the second grade. From that time, she was subjected to discrimination and racial taunts by both her white and black peers. She went on to attend Denver's East High School, where her teacher, Sheila Feeney, introduced her to the writings of Malcolm X. Tate also joined the swim team and drama club, where she played the lead roles in 'Bye Bye Birdie' and 'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.'

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:11 ?

Alysia Tate attended East High School in Denver, Colorado. There, she joined the drama club and served as the photo editor of the school newspaper. Upon graduating in 1980, she enrolled at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where she initially majored in theater. After reconsidering her career path, Tate joined the university's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. On campus, she belonged to a close knit community of black students, and studied under influential African American professors like Leon Forrest and Charles Whitaker. With Whitaker's encouragement, Tate secured a writing position at the student-run BlackBoard Magazine. She also joined the predominantly white Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, but resigned after becoming frustrated with the organization's racist and sexist attitudes. Instead, Tate became more politically active on campus. She joined the Women's Coalition, participated in anti-apartheid marches and protested to demonstrate support for Rodney King.

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_001\_004, TRT: 4:25:36 ?

Alysia Tate became an advocate for women's rights at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She published articles in The Daily Northwestern student newspaper that highlighted the problems of sexism and sexual assault. Because of her leadership, she was arrested and interrogated by university police after the university president, Arnold Weber, received a package believed to be a bomb. They initially threatened her with terrorism charges, but closed investigation

shortly after Tate contacted the American Civil Liberties Union and Gloria Steinem's Ms. magazine. During this period, Tate switched her major from theater to journalism, and entered the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. In 1993, she secured an internship at the Boston Globe. After graduating in 1994, Tate completed an internship at the People magazine bureau in Chicago, Illinois. Then, she landed a position at the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, Illinois, where she covered the local school districts.

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_001\_005, TRT: 5:26:24 ?

Alysia Tate met Laura Washington of the Chicago Reporter at an Investigative Reporters and Editors conference. Later, Washington offered Tate a position as a political reporter at the Chicago Reporter. Despite the low salary, she accepted the offer and relocated to the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. In the subsequent years, Tate was introduced to the Chicago political community, including figures like Barack Obama, Anna Langford and Lutrelle "Lu" F. Palmer, II. Her coverage also focused on the lack of affordable housing for low income families. In 2001, Tate represented the Re-evaluation Counseling organization at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, where she helped develop strategies to combat the effects of racism. That year, she became the editor and publisher of The Chicago Reporter. At this point, Tate talks about the psychological effects of violence and the impact of discriminatory housing and lending practices on the South Side of Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_002\_006, TRT: 6:29:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_002\_007, TRT: 7:30:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_002\_008, TRT: 8:29:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Alysia Tate, Section A2014\_252\_002\_009, TRT: 9:04:30 ?