

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carolyn Young

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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>	Young, Carolyn, 1944-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Young,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 4, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:32:56).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civic leader Carolyn Young (1944 - ), wife of former Ambassador Andrew Young, served as the vice chairperson of the Andrew J. Young Foundation. She also taught in the Atlanta Public Schools for over thirty years. Young was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 4, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_047
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader Carolyn Young was born on September 14, 1944 in Atlanta, Georgia to Dorothy Wilmont Harden and George McClain, Sr. Young graduated from Price High School in 1962, and went on to receive her B.S. degree in sociology and elementary education from Atlanta's Clark College in 1966. After teaching at Wesley Elementary School for several years, Young received her M.A. degree in elementary education from Georgia State University in 1971. Upon graduating from Georgia State University, Young became a teacher at East Lake Elementary School in Atlanta, where she helped to desegregate the faculty. She taught kindergarten through seventh grade but primarily focused her attention on fifth grade students. She went on to teach at E. Rivers Elementary School, where she also served as a Sunday school superintendent at Union Baptist Church. Young married U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young in Capetown, South Africa in 1996, and retired from teaching. She worked as the protocol contact for foreign dignitaries at GoodWorks International, a transnational business management consulting firm founded by her husband in 1996. There, she coordinated logistics, travel, and events around the world. Young served as vice chair of the Andrew J. Young Foundation and as the executive director of Andrew Young Presents, the Young Foundation's Emmy award-winning, nationally syndicated documentary series highlighting Africa, the Civil Rights Movement and other social issues.

Young received many honors for her dedication to elementary school teaching, including the Atlanta Area II Teacher of the Year award. Young was a recipient of the Southern Bell Black History Calendar "Teacher of Excellence" Award, the Georgia Teachers Incentive Award for Intermediate Grades. Young also served on the board of directors for numerous organizations including the United Negro College Fund, the Andrew & Walter Young YMCA, Atlanta Area Technical College, WestCare, the Andrew Young School of Public Policy at Georgia State University, and Clark Atlanta University. She was honored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women, and was the recipient of the Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams Award, the Outstanding United Negro College Fund Volunteer Award, and the Lady Who Leads Award.

Carolyn Young was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 2, 2016.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carolyn Young was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 4, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader Carolyn Young (1944 - ), wife of former Ambassador Andrew Young, served as the vice chairperson of the Andrew J. Young Foundation. She also taught in the Atlanta Public Schools for over thirty years.

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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:

Young, Carolyn, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Young, Carolyn, 1944- --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:

Nonprofit Executive

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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 Carolyn Young, October 4, 2016. 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 Carolyn Young, Section A2016\_047\_001\_001, TRT: 1:33:44 ?  
Carolyn Young was born on September 14, 1944 in Atlanta, Georgia to Dorothy Wilmont Harden and George McClain, Sr. Her maternal grandmother, Montine Wilmont, was originally from Hoschton, Georgia, where she was raped by the prominent white physician Myron B. Allen. A few years after giving birth to Young's mother, she moved to Atlanta, where she worked as a maid at Dinkler

Plaza Hotel and later on the Southern Railway. Young's mother attended Booker T. Washington High School. During that time, she met Young's father, who was a student at Morehouse College. After serving in World War II, Young's father left the family, leaving Young's mother and grandmother to raise her and her older brother, George McClain, Jr. When she was thirteen years old, her mother married her stepfather, Moses Harden. Young began her education at Thomas H. Slater Elementary School, where she was inspired by Principal Andrew Lewis to become an educator. She was often bullied for her lighter complexion and long hair.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Young, Section A2016\_047\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:36 ?

Carolyn Young was raised in a middle class household in the Joyland neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia. She attended Luther Judson Price High School, where she was encouraged by her English teacher, Ernest Pharr. In her spare time, she played violin and cello in the school orchestra, and enjoyed reading books like 'Black Beauty' by Anna Sewell. Initially, she aspired to become a veterinarian, but later decided to pursue teaching. Upon entering Atlanta's Clark College in 1962, Young developed a menstrual condition that was eventually treated by Dr. William G. Avery, Sr. At this point, she remembers when her brother was assaulted at an integrated baseball game. Young completed her student teaching at Atlanta's Wesley Avenue School under the guidance of Principal Ralph Long, and was then assigned to integrate the faculty of East Lake Elementary School. She also recalls creating scrapbooks about the accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Andrew Young.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Young, Section A2016\_047\_001\_003, TRT: 3:27:11 ?

Carolyn Young and Olympic sprinter Edith McGuire were among the first African American teachers at East Lake Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. There, Young was shunned by some of her black colleagues because of her light complexion. She then integrated the faculty at Goldsmith Elementary School. After the school's closure, Young became a fifth grade teacher at E.P. Howell Elementary School. In her classes, she taught African American history, including lesser known historical figures like explorer Matthew Henson and civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo. During this time, she earned a master's degree from Georgia State University. Young was a member of American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE). In 1976, she was named a teacher of the year by the Atlanta Public Schools. She went on to teach at E. Rivers Elementary School until 1997. Young also remembers marrying her first husband while attending Clark College. They divorced in 1994.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Young, Section A2016\_047\_001\_004, TRT: 4:33:39 ?

Carolyn Young was recruited by Principal David York to teach at E. Rivers Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. There, she befriended fellow teacher Elizabeth Knox Blackwell, who escorted Ambassador Andrew Young's son, Andrew Young III, to school when the family travelled abroad. Young became close with Andrew Young III, who went on to live with her for five years. At this point, Young remembers Blackwell's death in 1982. After the death of Andrew Young's first wife, Jean Childs Young, she became close friends with Andrew Young and helped him through the grieving process. They began dating in 1995. In 1996, the couple married in Cape Town, South Africa with the support of South Africa Ambassador Franklin Sonn and anti-apartheid activist Adelaide Tambo. The wedding was officiated by Bishop Desmond Tutu and Bishop McKinley Young, and was attended by diplomat James Joseph and his

wife Mary Braxton-Joseph. Initially, many people in Atlanta opposed the marriage, but they soon came to accept the union.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Young, Section A2016\_047\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:46 ?

Carolyn Young and Andrew Young held their wedding in South Africa in 1996. During their three-week stay, they visited an orphanage, and met with Nelson Mandela and diamond exporter Harry Oppenheimer. The couple also travelled to the Kruger National Park in South Africa. At this point, Young talks about her husband's first visit to South Africa, and her anti-apartheid protests with Evelyn Gibson Lowery's organization, SCLC/WOMEN. Upon her return, she taught at E. Rivers Elementary School for one year. In 1996, Young and her husband founded the GoodWorks International LLC transnational consulting company, which worked with clients like Nike, Inc. She also started the Carolyn Young Mentor Walk, and served on the boards of Clark Atlanta University, the United Negro College Fund and the Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA. Young also talks about her husband's television series, 'Andrew Young Presents.' She concludes the interview by reflecting upon her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.