

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bob Lydia

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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>	Lydia, Bob, 1943-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 15, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:12:49).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civic leader Bob Lydia (1943 - ) was first vice president of the Dallas NAACP and Texas NAACP. He also served as security for the National NAACP for eighteen years and co-founded B&L Electromechanical Service and B&L Central Electric. Lydia was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 15, 2017, in Dallas, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_070
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader Bob Lydia was born on December 17, 1943 in Arp, Texas. Lydia graduated from Emmett J. Scott High School in Tyler, Texas in 1962, and received his A.A. degree from El Centro Junior College in Dallas, Texas and enrolled at the University of Texas at Dallas. In 1989, Lydia received certification as a Dallas County Reserve Deputy Constable and became a licensed private investigator. He then received a mediator certification from Texas A&M University in 2008.

In 1964, Lydia joined the U.S. Air Force and completed his basic training in San Antonio, Texas. He was stationed in Wichita Falls, Kansas as a weapons specialist and was released from service in 1966. After his military service, Lydia joined the NAACP Youth Council in Dallas, where he served as a poll watcher and deputy registrar. He was promoted to vice president of the Young Adult Council of the Dallas NAACP and was mentored by Juanita Craft. In 1974, Lydia co-founded B&L Electromechanical Service and B&L Central Electric. He then entered into a partnership of owning laundromats and car washes in 1985, and eventually founded his own company B&L Central Electric. The same year, Lydia joined the security at the National NAACP, and served in that capacity for eighteen years. In 2000, he became president of the Dallas NAACP. Lydia was elected as the first vice president of the Texas NAACP in 2008, and in 2015, Lydia helped to re-instate the Tri-Cities Branch of the NAACP in Texas. In 2017, he was elected as a regional representative member to the National NAACP Board of Directors.

In addition to his involvement with the NAACP, Lydia has been active in other community organizations, including in the city of Duncanville, Texas, where he served on the Sign Control Board, the Board of Adjustment, the Library Board, and the Planning and Zoning Board.

In 2013, Lydia received the NAACP Hero Award in Dallas, Texas. He was also named a “Peacemaker” for the Community Relations Service by the U.S. Department of Justice and received the Thalheimer Award from the NAACP

Bob Lydia was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 15, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bob Lydia was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 15, 2017, in Dallas, Texas, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader Bob Lydia (1943 - ) was first vice president of the Dallas NAACP and Texas NAACP. He also served as security for the National NAACP for eighteen years and co-founded B&L Electromechanical Service and B&L Central Electric.

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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:

Lydia, Bob, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lydia, Bob, 1943- --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:

Civic Leader

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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 Bob Lydia, March 15, 2017. 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 Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_001, TRT: 1:25:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_004, TRT: 4:31:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_005, TRT: 5:31:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bob Lydia, Section A2017\_070\_001\_007, TRT: 7:15:33 ?