

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Scott Syphax

---

## 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>	Syphax, Scott, 1963-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 3, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:28:09).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Business executive Scott Syphax (1963 - ) was the president and chief executive officer of the Nehemiah Corporation of America, the founder of Syphax Strategic Solutions, and the host and producer of the television show Studio Sacramento. Syphax was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 3, 2018, in Sacramento, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_060
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Business executive Scott Syphax was born on July 13, 1963 in Detroit, Michigan to Vernettia Gilmore Syphax and Charles Syphax. Raised in Sacramento, California, Syphax graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1981, and became the manager of The Vortex, a nightclub in downtown Sacramento. After working as an executive fellow with the public policy and leadership training program at the Coro Foundation, Syphax then earned his B.S. degree in business administration, real estate development, and land use planning from California State University, Sacramento in 1992.

From 1992 to 1994, Syphax worked as a senior policy consultant for California State Senator Robert Presley. He then served as chief executive officer of the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences for one year, before accepting a position as senior lobbyist for the California Medical Association. From 1999 to 2001, Syphax worked as the manager of public affairs for the pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly and Company; and then in 2001, Syphax became the president and chief executive officer of the Nehemiah Corporation of America, a real estate and community development company. In 2009, Syphax founded the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program; and the following year, he launched the Neighborhood Restoration Program and the Roofs for Troops program. He was also a developer for the Township Nine project, a sixty-five acre mixed-use development project in Sacramento's River District. In 2011, Syphax became the producer and host of the PBS KVIE public television show *Studio Sacramento*, which won an Emmy Award in 2013 for an episode on human trafficking. After leaving the Nehemiah Corporation of America in 2017, Syphax founded Syphax Strategic Solution.

Syphax received numerous awards for his professional accomplishments, including the 2011 Exemplary Leader Award from the American Leadership Forum, the Economic Trailblazer Award from the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, the Al Geiger Award from the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and the Excellence in Broadcasting Award from the American Council on Arab Islamic Relations, all in 2013. Syphax was also the recipient of the Urban League's 2016 Community Empowerment Award and the Congressman Robert T.

Matsui Community Service Award from The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee in 2017. Syphax served on the board of Sutter Health San Sierra, Homeaid America, the California Medical Association Foundation, Valley Vision, and the Bay Area Council. Syphax was also a member of the California Department Insurance Task Force on Board Governance and Supplier Diversity.

Scott Syphax was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 3, 2018.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Scott Syphax was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 3, 2018, in Sacramento, California, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Business executive Scott Syphax (1963 - ) was the president and chief executive officer of the Nehemiah Corporation of America, the founder of Syphax Strategic Solutions, and the host and producer of the television show Studio Sacramento.

---

## 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®.

---

## 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.

---

## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Syphax, Scott, 1963-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Syphax, Scott, 1963- --Interviews

---

## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

## Occupations:

Chief Executive Officer

---

## HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

---

## 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 Scott Syphax, April 3, 2018. 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).

---

## 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.

---

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:03 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:22 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:59 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_006, TRT: 6:27:30 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_007, TRT: 7:30:33 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_008, TRT: 8:27:09 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_009, TRT: 9:30:12 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Scott Syphax, Section A2018\_060\_001\_010, TRT: 10:07:00 ?