

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Cassandra Jennings

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jennings, Cassandra, 1956-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings,
Dates:	April 3, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:01:18).
Abstract:	Municipal official and nonprofit executive Cassandra Jennings (1956 -) held various positions with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, the City of Sacramento, and the office of Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson before becoming the chief executive officer of the Greater Sacramento Urban League. Jennings was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 3, 2018, in Sacramento, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_061
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Municipal official and nonprofit executive Cassandra Jennings was born on May 24, 1956 in Williamstown, North Carolina to Mary Bunch Brinkley and Bernard Brinkley. Jennings graduated from Bowie High School in Bowie, Maryland in 1974, and received her B.A. degree in urban studies from the University of Maryland College Park in 1978. She then earned her M.P.A. degree from the University of San Francisco in 1983.

Jennings worked as an analyst for the City of Oakland, California from 1978 to 1983. Jennings was then hired as a project manager for the Neighborhood Housing Services of America in Oakland. In 1987, she joined the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, where worked in various positions, including that of deputy executive director. During her time there, Jennings founded the consulting firm of Jennings & Associates in 2000. After leaving the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency in 2005, Jennings was hired by the City of Sacramento as an assistant city manager, a position she held until 2011. She then briefly returned to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency as the deputy executive director, handling special projects and evaluating special entities. From 2012 to 2016, Jennings served as a senior advisor to Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson. In this role, Jennings worked on a number of city-wide initiatives, including For Arts' Sake, Sacramento Steps Forward, and Volunteer Sacramento. Jennings became the president and chief executive officer of the Greater Sacramento Urban League in 2016.

Jennings has received numerous awards, including a Repairer of the Breach Award in 2010 and an Award of Excellence from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in 2011. In 2016, she received the Community Leader Award from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and was a California Legislative Caucus Black History Month Honoree. Jennings also received an Al Geiger Memorial Award from the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and a Chancellor's Achievement Award for diversity and community from the University of California, Davis in 2018. Jennings served as chair of the American Leadership Forum and the Florin Road Foundation boards as well as on

the boards of the California Musical Theater and the Golden 1 Credit Union. She served as president of the Sacramento chapter of The Links, and was co-chair of the Career Education African American Advisory Panel.

Jennings and her husband, Richard T. Jennings II, have two children, Richard Jennings III and Asha Jennings.

Cassandra Jennings was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 3, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Cassandra Jennings was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 3, 2018, in Sacramento, California, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Municipal official and nonprofit executive Cassandra Jennings (1956 -) held various positions with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, the City of Sacramento, and the office of Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson before becoming the chief executive officer of the Greater Sacramento Urban League.

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:

Jennings, Cassandra, 1956-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jennings, Cassandra, 1956- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

City Government Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Cassandra Jennings, 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 Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_001, TRT: 1:32:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_002, TRT: 2:30:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_003, TRT: 3:32:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_004, TRT: 4:28:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_005, TRT: 5:37:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_006, TRT: 6:17:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cassandra Jennings, Section A2018_061_001_007, TRT: 7:03:01 ?