

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Aaronetta Pierce

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pierce, Aaronetta, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce,
Dates:	June 8, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:40:08).
Abstract:	Civic leader Aaronetta Pierce (1943 -) co-founded Premier Artworks, Inc. and chaired high profile commissions that enriched the cultural landscape of San Antonio, Texas. Pierce was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 8, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_120
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader Aaronetta Pierce was born on January 8, 1943 in Somerville, Tennessee to Clementine Lofties Hamilton and David Aaron Hamilton. Pierce's father was dean of the Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Home Economics. Pierce attended Tennessee State University where she studied French from 1959 to 1961 and transferred to The University of Iowa where she received her B.A. degree in English and social science in 1963.

From 1964 to 1967, Pierce taught in the San Antonio Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas, before she moved to Germany for three years. In the 1970s, Pierce began volunteering in the San Antonio community. In 1980, she joined the docent corps at the San Antonio Museum of Art as well as the board of the San Antonio Museum Association. In 1983, she also became active with the incorporation of the Southwest Ethnic Arts Society. In 1985, Governor Mark W. White, Jr. appointed Pierce as the first Black woman to serve on the Texas Commission on the Arts. San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros selected Pierce to chair the founding Martin Luther King City/County Commission, which planned and executed the city's inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations in 1986. Two years later, Mayor Cisneros appointed Pierce chair of the San Antonio Blue Ribbon Committee on the Arts. The committee's report led to the creation of the San Antonio Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs. In 1990, Pierce and her husband founded Premier Artworks, Inc. to promote the work of African American artists and authors across the country.

Pierce has been recognized at the municipal and state level. In 1984, she was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, and in 1993, she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. The United Communities of San Antonio, Inc. awarded Pierce its Humanitarian Award, which recognizes individuals who promote understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures, in 2007. In addition to holding long term membership in The Links, Incorporated and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Pierce served on boards for numerous organizations including Fisk University, the San Antonio Performing Arts Association, and the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Pierce and her husband, Dr. Joseph A. Pierce, Jr., have two sons, Joseph Pierce and Michael Pierce.

Aaronetta Pierce was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 8, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Aaronetta Pierce was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 8, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader Aaronetta Pierce (1943 -) co-founded Premier Artworks, Inc. and chaired high profile commissions that enriched the cultural landscape of San Antonio, Texas.

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:

Pierce, Aaronetta, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pierce, Aaronetta, 1943- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

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 Aaronetta Pierce, June 8, 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 Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_001, TRT: 1:28:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_002, TRT: 2:29:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_003, TRT: 3:28:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_004, TRT: 4:29:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_005, TRT: 5:28:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_006, TRT: 6:28:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_007, TRT: 7:28:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section A2018_120_001_008, TRT: 8:17:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section
A2018_120_AARONETTA_PIERCE_06_MED_001, TRT: 1:06:34 ?

Aaronetta Hamilton Pierce Civic Leader & Professional Volunteer Advocate for African American Art & Culture There is a saying that our elders are walking libraries. This statement couldn't be more true of Aaronetta Pierce. She has made a lifelong commitment to activism, community, and the arts. That work has work has led her to some incredible experiences!

Video Oral History Interview with Aaronetta Pierce, Section
A2018_120_AARONETTA_PIERCE_06_MED_002, TRT:

In 1974, the Pierce family broke barriers, becoming one of the early investors and Black owners of a team that would soon become a legendary franchise in San Antonio.