

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Toni Carter

## Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carter, Toni, 1954-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter,
Dates:	June 19, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:32:49).
Abstract:	Civic leader Toni Carter (1954- ) elected to the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education where she served as member and chair from 2001 to 2005, she was the first African American to serve on a county board in Minnesota as the Ramsey County Commissioner for District 4, in Saint Paul. Her term of service were 2005, 2010 and 2014. Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 19, 2018, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_129
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader Toni Carter was born on June 29, 1954 in Bessemer, Alabama. She attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1971, and later received her B.S. degree in K-8 education from Concordia University in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 2000.

Carter served as an IBM systems engineer in technical marketing in 1978 before leaving to teach at Crosswinds Middle School in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1990. Carter then spent twelve years as a marketing representative, systems support manager and communications and arts consultant.

Carter was elected to the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education, where she served as member and chair from 2001 to 2005. She was then elected Ramsey County Commissioner for District 4, in Saint Paul, becoming the first African American to serve on a county board in Minnesota and serving the following terms: 2005, 2010, 2014 and 2019. During her tenure, she focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of county services, eliminating disparities in outcomes for diverse populations, and raising grassroots awareness of county decision-making processes and systems.

Active in the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), she served on the board of directors and also as its president. A member of the board of directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo), she served as chair of NACo’s Healthy Counties Initiative. She also served as co-chair of the Minnesota Human Services Performance Council and the Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Stakeholder Committee. Carter was also the chief local elected official on the Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board.

Carter has worked and volunteered in the Twin Cities arts community for over three decades, acting professionally with Saint Paul’s Penumbra Theatre, in television and radio commercials and industrials, as talent for print media, and as co-founder and founding director of ARTS-US.

Carter has served on numerous community boards, including the Saint Paul Planning Commission, the Metropolitan Area Library Service Agency (MELSA), the Walker West Music Academy, the West Side Community Health Center, the Saint Paul YWCA and the Jeremiah Program.

Carter has received numerous awards for her work in the community and in the arts and arts education, including an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Concordia University – Saint Paul.

Her son, Melvin Carter, III was elected mayor of Saint Paul, Minnesota in 2018.

Carter and her husband, Melvin Carter, Jr. have three adult children including Anika, Melvin, III and Alanna, six granddaughters and two grandsons.

Toni Carter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 19, 2018.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Toni Carter was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 19, 2018, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader Toni Carter (1954- ) elected to the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education where she served as member and chair from 2001 to 2005, she was the first African American to serve on a county board in Minnesota as the Ramsey County Commissioner for District 4, in Saint Paul. Her term of service were 2005, 2010 and 2014.

---

## 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:

Carter, Toni, 1954-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews  
Carter, Toni, 1954- --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 Toni Carter, June 19, 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 Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_007, TRT: 7:29:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Toni Carter, Section A2018\_129\_001\_008, TRT: 8:04:10 ?