

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Ben Holbert

---

## 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>	Holbert, Ben, 1959-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 24, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:02:21).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalist and political leader Ben Holbert (1959 - ) served as a reporter and anchor in the Greater Cleveland area for twenty-five years before being the second African American elected mayor of the Village of Woodmere, Ohio in 2017. Holbert was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 24, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_188
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and political leader Ben Holbert was born on March 6, 1959 in Cleveland, Ohio to Benjamin, Jr. and Mollie Holbert. He graduated from Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio in 1977, received his B.A. degree in communications from Kent State University in 1984, and his M.B.A. degree from University of Phoenix in 2012.

Holbert began his professional career in broadcast journalism and served as a reporter and anchor at several media outlets in the Cleveland television market, including WJKW-TV, WKYC TV-NBC, WVIZ-PBS, WUAB-TV-43/WOIO-CBS, and WJMO-1490-AM, from 1985 to 2005. He also worked as vice president and general manager of the Cleveland Television Network from 2001 to 2002, and served as general assignment reporter at WKYC-TV, NBC from 2002 to 2005. He was director of communications at Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, in Decatur, Georgia from 2006 to 2007, and served as interim chief communications officer at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District from 2007 to 2008. He was also a senior partnership specialist at the U.S. Census Bureau from 2009 to 2010. Holbert was an aide and executive assistant to the commission president of Cuyahoga County from 2010 to 2011. He established and served as president at Holbert Enterprises in 2010; and, in 2011, was elected city councilman, later becoming city council president for the Village of Woodmere, Ohio, remaining until 2017. Holbert subsequently worked as the Cleveland chapter parliamentarian for National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in 2014, and was a business specialist at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District from 2014 to 2016. He also served as adjunct professor at Cleveland State University in 2016. The following year, he launched a local restaurant called Sides 2 Go BBQ. In 2017, Holbert was the second African American elected mayor of the Village of Woodmere, Ohio.

Holbert has received numerous honors and awards including Kent State University- Outstanding Alumni Award and Community Service Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity-Omega Man of the Year, Village of Woodmere-Council Member Award, and Knights of Peter Claver-Image Award. He was inducted into the Benedictine High School

Hall of Distinction. He was also the recipient of four Emmy Awards for journalistic reporting and the Akron (Ohio) Broadcasters Hall of Fame “Personality of the Year”.

Ben Holbert was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 24, 2018.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 24, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist and political leader Ben Holbert (1959 - ) served as a reporter and anchor in the Greater Cleveland area for twenty-five years before being the second African American elected mayor of the Village of Woodmere, Ohio in 2017.

---

## 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:

Holbert, Ben, 1959-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Holbert, Ben, 1959- --Interviews

---

# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

# Occupations:

Journalist

---

Political Leader

---

# HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers|PoliticalMakers

---

# 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 The Honorable Ben Holbert, September 24, 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 The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_001,  
TRT: 1:29:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_002,  
TRT: 2:28:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_003,  
TRT: 3:28:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_004,  
TRT: 4:28:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_005,  
TRT: 5:28:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_006,  
TRT: 6:28:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ben Holbert, Section A2018\_188\_001\_007,  
TRT: 7:09:52 ?