

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James A. Bell

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## 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>	Bell, James A., 1948-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 31, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:33:31).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate executive James A. Bell (1948- ) was chief financial officer and corporate president of The Boeing Company. Bell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 31, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_118
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive James A. Bell was born on June 4, 1948 in South Central Los Angeles, California to Mamie and Clyde Bell. He attended and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, where he served in student government and was student body president his senior year. In 1997, he graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with his B.S. degree in accounting.

Bell began working as an accountant at Rockwell International Corporation, Atomics International Accounting Organization in 1972 in Canoga Park, California. In 1984, he supervised the team responsible for combining the financial activities of the Atomics International and Rocketdyne Divisions of the Rockwell Corporation. Two years later, Bell was promoted to the director of accounting where he remained until 1992 when he became director of business management for Rockwell's Space Station Electric Power System Program. He remained here until 1996 when Boeing Company acquired the aerospace and defense division of Rockwell International. Bell was then promoted to vice president of Boeing's contracts and pricing; and, in 2000, to senior vice president of finance and corporate controller. In this position, he served as Boeing's principal interface with the board's audit committee. Then, in 2003, he was appointed acting chief financial officer, a role he held until 2004. That same year, he was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of Boeing. In May of 2005, Bell was made acting chief executive officer and president in addition to his duties as chief financial officer and executive vice president. In 2008, he became corporate president. Bell then retired from Boeing in April of 2012.

Bell also served on numerous boards, including those of The Chicago Urban League, The Dow Chemical Company, JPMorgan Chase & Co., CDW, Apple, Inc., the Chicago Infrastructure Trust, The Economic Club of Chicago, World Business Chicago, New Leaders for New Schools, and Rush University Medical Center.

In 2004, at the 32nd Alumni Awards Gala, Bell was the recipient of California State University, Los Angeles's Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Business and Economics.

Bell and his wife, Mary Howell, married in 1981. They have two adult children, Sean and Champagne.

James A. Bell was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 31, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with James A. Bell was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on October 31, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive James A. Bell (1948- ) was chief financial officer and corporate president of The Boeing Company.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Bell, James A., 1948-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bell, James A., 1948---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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## The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### Occupations:

Corporate Executive

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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## 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 James A. Bell, October 31, 2019. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_001, TRT: 1:31:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_002, TRT: 2:32:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_003, TRT: 3:33:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:52 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:19 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_007, TRT: 7:30:11 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_008, TRT: 8:31:10 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:11 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_010, TRT: 10:32:04 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with James A. Bell, Section A2019\_118\_001\_011, TRT: 11:24:05 ?