

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gayle Holliday

PERSON

Holliday, Gayle, 1944-

Alternative Names: Gayle Holliday;

Life Dates: May 18, 1944-

Place of Birth: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

Residence: Kansas City, MO

Occupations: Civic Leader

Biographical Note

Transportation executive, business consultant, and political activist Gayle Holliday was born on May 18, 1944 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Helen and George Smith. She graduated from Fredrick Douglass High School in 1962 before attending Howard University and ultimately graduating from Oklahoma City University with her B.A. degree in political science in 1968. Holliday later earned her M.P.A. degree from Central Michigan University in 1978 and her Ph.D. in management and applied technology from Webster University in 2004.

From 1969 to 1971, Holliday was the assistant dean of students at Federal City College in Washington D.C. She subsequently became a reporter and writer for Kansas City, Missouri's CBS affiliate, KCMO-TV. In 1975, Holliday was hired by the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority as the personnel and equal employment opportunity manager. She was later promoted to the director of human resources; and, in 1986, she became deputy general manager. She left the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority in 1996 upon founding and becoming president and CEO of G&H Consulting, LLC where she monitored minority and women business enterprise compliance on the renovations of Kauffman and Arrowhead stadiums, the Kansas City Zoo, and a new police crime laboratory. G&H Consulting has also been a major consultant on five disparity studies for women and minorities, including for the City of Kansas City, Missouri; the State of Missouri; the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority; Jackson County, Missouri; and Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools.

Holliday has served on numerous committees throughout her career, including appointments to Bill Clinton's presidential transition team in 1992; Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II's task force on race relations in 1996; the Sixth Circuit Judicial Commission of Kansas City, Missouri in 2006; co-chair of Kansas City,

Missouri Mayor Sly James' Charter Commission in 2016; co-chair of Jackson County, Missouri's Jail Task Force from 2016 to 2018; and Missouri Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II's Black/Brown Coalition in 2017. She was also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Links, Inc., and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. In 2019, Holliday was named co-president of Freedom, Inc.

Holliday has received many awards, including being named one of the Top 50 Most Influential Black Women in Kansas City, Missouri in 1983; the Thomas G. Neusom Founder's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Growth and Development of Minorities presented by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials in 1989; the 1992 Service Award from the National Conference of Black Mayors; the 2005 Congressional Black Caucus's Unsung Hero Award; and the 2018 Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's Rosa Parks Trailblazer Award. She was also recognized by the 109th Congress for Outstanding Service in the State of Missouri and working to promote economic and political empowerment for African Americans and other minorities.

Gayle Holliday resides in Kansas City, Missouri, and has two children with her late husband, Harold Holliday, Jr.: Holli and Harold Holliday, III.

Gayle Holliday was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 6, 2019.

Related Entries

Dunbar Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

F.D. Moon Junior High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Frederick A. Douglass High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Oklahoma City University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Central Michigan University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.P.A.

Webster University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Federal City College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to 1971]

Assistant Dean of Students

KCMO-TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1971 to 1973]

Reporter/Writer

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1975 to ?]

Personnel & Equal Employment Opportunity Manager

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Director of Human Resources

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to 1996]

Deputy General Manager

G&H Consulting, LLC [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1996 to ?]

Owner; CEO; President

Freedom, Incorporated [MEMBEROf]
[from 1970 to ?]

President

Visit K.C. [MEMBEROf]
[from 1998 to 2017]

Board of Directors; Former Vice Chair

NAACP [MEMBEROf]
[from 1980 to ?]

Life Member

Historical Jazz District Redevelopment [MEMBEROf]
[from 2006 to ?]

Board of Directors; Former Chair; Treasurer

National Urban League [MEMBEROf]
[from 1999 to ?]

Board of Governors

Kansas City, Missouri Judicial Sixth Circuit [MEMBEROf]
[from 2006 to 2009]

Commissioner

The Kansas Citians [MEMBEROf]
[from 2006 to ?]

Parliamentarian

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from 1983 to ?]

Life Member

Links, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from 1993 to ?]

Alumna Member

Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Charter Commission [MEMBEROF]
[from 2016 to 2016]

Appointee

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce [MEMBEROF]
[from 2006 to ?]

Member

Jackson County, Missouri Charter Commission [MEMBEROF]
[from 2015 to 2015]

Appointee

Urban Summit [MEMBEROF]
[from 2009 to ?]

Founding Member

Black/Brown Coalition [MEMBEROF]
[from 2017 to ?]

Member

Jackson County, Missouri Jail Task Force [MEMBEROF]
[from 2016 to 2018]

Co-Chair

Clinton/Gore Presidential Transition Team [MEMBEROF]
[from 1992 to 1992]

Team Leader, Transportation Cluster