

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joan Robinson-Berry

---

## 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>	Robinson-Berry, Joan, 1959-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joan Robinson-Berry,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 14, 2021
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2021
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:02:59).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Aerospace engineer Joan Robinson-Berry (1959- ) held numerous positions at Boeing, including vice president of engineering, maintenance, and modifications and chief engineer for Boeing Global Services, before her retirement in 2020. Robinson-Berry was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 14, 2021, in Charleston, South Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2021_010
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Aerospace engineer Joan Robinson-Berry was born in 1959 in Los Angeles, California. She graduated from Bassett High School in La Puente, California. She received her B.S. degree in 1982 from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and her M.S. degree in 1991 from the University of California, Riverside.

Robinson-Berry started her career out as a design and manufacturing engineer in at General Dynamics. She then served as a program manager at McDonnell Douglas and then joined Boeing in 1986 where she held the roles of program manager of the MD-80/90 Twinjet Programs for Boeing Commercial Airplanes and small business liaison officer. In 2004, she moved to Boeing as director of engineering and technical workforce excellence before being named director of engineering processes, tools and skills within the space and communications unit. She later served as director of small/diverse business and strategic alliances for Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS), and director of Phantom Works Supplier Management for BDS. In 2014, Robinson-Berry was named vice president of the Shared Services Group Supplier Management. Two years later, she served as vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina. In 2018, she was promoted to vice president of engineering, maintenance and modifications and chief engineer for Boeing Global Services. She also served also as an Associate Technical Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and as a Fellow of the African Scientific Institute. Robinson-Berry retired from Boeing in 2020.

In 2012, Robinson-Berry was inducted into the Career Communications Group/Alumni Hall of Fame; and, in 2015, she received the organization's Women of Color Professional Achievement Award. In 2015, she was inducted into California Polytechnic Institute, Pomona's Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2016 and 2017, Robinson-Berry was recognized as one of Women's Enterprise USA's Top 100 Leaders in Supplier Diversity. She also received the 2017 Woman of the Year STEM award from the NAACP Long Beach Branch. She received honorary doctorate degrees from Charleston Southern University in 2017, Allen University in 2018 and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 2019. Robinson-Berry was also recognized in 2019 by *Black Enterprise* as one of the most

Powerful Women in Corporate America. In 2021, Robinson-Berry was inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame of Women in Aviation International.

Joan Robinson-Berry was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 14, 2021.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joan Robinson-Berry was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 14, 2021, in Charleston, South Carolina, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Aerospace engineer Joan Robinson-Berry (1959- ) held numerous positions at Boeing, including vice president of engineering, maintenance, and modifications and chief engineer for Boeing Global Services, before her retirement in 2020.

---

## 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:

Robinson-Berry, Joan, 1959-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Robinson-Berry, Joan, 1959---Interviews

---

# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

The Boeing Company

---

# Occupations:

Engineering Executive

---

# HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

---

# 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 Joan Robinson-Berry, November 14, 2021. 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 Joan Robinson-Berry, Section A2021\_010\_001\_001, TRT:  
1:30:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Joan Robinson-Berry, Section A2021\_010\_001\_002, TRT:  
2:30:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Joan Robinson-Berry, Section A2021\_010\_001\_003, TRT:  
3:30:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Joan Robinson-Berry, Section A2021\_010\_001\_004, TRT:  
4:31:58 ?