

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert "Bert" Davis

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Davis, Robert, 1960-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis,
Dates:	January 27, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2022
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:33:18).
Abstract:	Veterinarian and museum executive Dr. Robert “Bert” Davis (1960 -) has served as supervisory veterinary medical officer at the Smithsonian Institute’s National Zoological Park, director of education and external affairs at Zoo Atlanta, vice president of education at Lincoln Park Zoo, and president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, the Dubuque Historical Society, and America’s Black Holocaust Museum. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 27, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2022_006
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Veterinarian and museum executive Dr. Robert “Bert” Davis was born on November 1, 1960, in Chicago, Illinois, to Pearl and John Davis. He received his B.S. degree in animal and poultry sciences with a minor in biology in 1983 from Tuskegee Institute (later Tuskegee University), in Tuskegee, Alabama, and his D.V.M. degree in 1989 from the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

After veterinary school, Davis became an instructor and assistant professor in the department of biology at Tuskegee, serving until 1991, when he became a faculty fellow in the Department of Animal Health at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoological Park, in Washington, D.C. From 1993 to 1997, he served as the Park’s supervisory veterinary medical officer. In 1997, Davis accepted a position at Zoo Atlanta, in Atlanta, Georgia, as the director of education and external affairs.

Davis became the vice president of education at Lincoln Park Zoo, in Chicago, Illinois, in 2001 and a biology lecturer and instructor at the Harold Washington College of the City Colleges of Chicago in 2003. In 2005, Davis moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to assume the role of president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. Davis moved to Dubuque, Iowa, in 2016 to become president and CEO of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and the Dubuque Historical Society. In 2017, Davis became principal at DRMD Strategies, LLC, in Milwaukee. In 2019, Davis assumed the role of president and CEO of America’s Black Holocaust Museum, in Milwaukee.

Davis has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including as vice chair of the American Alliance of Museums and chair of its Diversity Committee, chair of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association Diversity

Committee and member of its Ethics Board, chair of Quest Charter Management Organization, chair of the Milwaukee Area Technical College Foundation, and as a member of the Association of African American Museums, Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Foundation, Milwaukee Film Festival, the Tuskegee Veterinary Alumni Executive Board, the Visit Milwaukee Multicultural Advisory Board, Independence First, Marquette University College of Professional Studies and Center for Transformational Learning, Milwaukee Collegiate Academy Charter School, the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, the Greater Washington Urban League, the Carnegie Institution's Academy of Science Education, and the Smithsonian Institution's National Science Resource Center.

Davis has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including the American Alliance of Museums 2018 5-year Star Advocate, the Tuskegee Veterinary Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Outstanding Service Award for Distinguished Service as the Chair of the Diversity Committee, the National Science Foundation National Role Model award, and the Matthew Jenkins Leadership Award from the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Davis lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dr. Robert "Bert" Davis was interviewed *The HistoryMakers* on January 27, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Robert "Bert" Davis was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 27, 2022, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Veterinarian and museum executive Dr. Robert "Bert" Davis (1960 -) has served as supervisory veterinary medical officer at the Smithsonian Institute's National Zoological Park, director of education and external affairs at Zoo Atlanta, vice president of education at Lincoln Park Zoo, and president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, the Dubuque Historical Society, and America's Black Holocaust Museum.

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:

Davis, Robert, 1960-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davis, Robert, 1960---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

America's Black Holocaust Museum

Occupations:

Education Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Robert "Bert" Davis, January 27, 2022. 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 Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_001, TRT: 1:28:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_002, TRT: 2:31:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_003, TRT: 3:29:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_004, TRT: 4:29:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_005, TRT: 5:28:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_006, TRT: 6:29:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_007, TRT: 7:29:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert "Bert" Davis, Section A2022_006_001_008, TRT: 8:07:44 ?