

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Theo Killion

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Killion, Theophilus McGuire, 1951-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion,
Dates:	March 28, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2022
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:40:51).
Abstract:	Corporate executive Theo Killion (1951 -) served as a human resources executive at Macy's and other corporations for over thirty years and as CEO of Zale Corporation from 2010 to 2014. He became chair of A Better Chance in 2020. Killion was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 28, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2022_034
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive Theo Killion was born on April 13, 1951, in Montgomery, West Virginia. He received his B.A. degree in history and English in 1973 and his M.Ed. degree in 1975, both from Tufts University, in Medford, Massachusetts.

Killion joined R. H. Macy & Co., Inc. (later Macy's, Inc.), in New York City, in 1975, where he served for nineteen years in operations, buying, and human resources, eventually becoming senior vice president of human resources. He then became senior vice president of human resources at the Home Shopping Network, in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1995, vice president of human resources at Lane Bryant, in Columbus, Ohio, in 1996, and vice president of human resources at Limited Brands, also in Columbus, Ohio, in 1999. In 2004, Killion became executive vice president of human resources at Tommy Hilfiger, in New York City, and in 2006, he became an executive search consultant at Berglass Grayson (later Berglass+Associates), also in New York City. Killion joined Zale Corporation, in Dallas, Texas, in 2008 as executive vice president of human resources, legal, and corporate strategy. He became president later that year and CEO in 2010, serving in that capacity until 2014. In 2016, Killion became vice chairman of Herbert Mines Associates, Inc., in New York City, and a managing partner at the Sierra Institute, in Dallas, Texas.

Killion has served on the boards of Jewelers of America, Express, Inc., Libbey, Inc., Tailored Brands, where he also served as chair, Claire's Stores, Inc., and Torrid. He also has served on the board of trustees of the Committee for Economic Development, the board of advisors for arts and sciences at Tufts University, and as chair of the board of A Better Chance. Killion is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Killion received the Benjamin Mays Award from A Better Chance in 2000, the Visionary Merchant Award from Texas A&M University in 2012, the Dreambuilder Award from A Better Chance in 2013, and the Outstanding Career and Service Award from Tufts University in 2018.

Killion lives in St. Petersburg, Florida. He has two daughters, Aliya and Niyama.

Theo Killion was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 28, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Theo Killion was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 28, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive Theo Killion (1951 -) served as a human resources executive at Macy's and other corporations for over thirty years and as CEO of Zale Corporation from 2010 to 2014. He became chair of A Better Chance 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:

Killion, Theophilus McGuire, 1951-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Killion, Theophilus McGuire, 1951---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Zale Corporation

Occupations:

Chief Executive Officer

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 Theo Killion, March 28, 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 Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_001, TRT: 1:31:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_002, TRT: 2:30:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_003, TRT: 3:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_004, TRT: 4:31:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_005, TRT: 5:33:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_006, TRT: 6:30:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_007, TRT: 7:31:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_008, TRT: 8:28:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Theo Killion, Section A2022_034_001_009, TRT: 9:36:00 ?