

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richmond McCoy

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McCoy, Richmond S., 1954-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richmond McCoy,
Dates:	March 9, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:49:45).
Abstract:	Real estate entrepreneur Richmond McCoy (1954 -) is the founder, president and CEO of UrbanAmerica. The company works in real estate and institutional asset management in African American communities and the not-for-profit sector. Some of its projects have included shopping malls in Florida, medical offices in Las Vegas, and police precincts in Maryland. McCoy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 9, 2001, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_047
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Prominent real estate executive Richmond McCoy was born to a large family in 1954, in upstate New York, and grew up in a rural area where his parents owned a dairy farm. His father also owned several apartment buildings in Harlem, and young Richmond often accompanied him to collect rent, sewing the seeds of his interest in real estate early on. When he was a teenager, McCoy's father died suddenly leaving his mother and his siblings to fend for themselves. After graduating from high school, McCoy left for the West Coast where he sold encyclopedias.

After returning to New York and pursuing sales and other opportunities, McCoy decided to pursue a career in commercial real estate obtaining his license in 1979. In 1984, McCoy embarked on his first entrepreneurial venture when he became one of the founding partners of Richard Sykes & Partners. There, McCoy widened his base of knowledge by doing transactions throughout the United States. In 1991, seeing a possible niche, McCoy set up his own firm, the R.M.C. Group, to provide corporate real estate services to major companies that wanted to work with minority-owned enterprises. By 1993, McCoy's business had expanded and he created the McCoy Realty Group, to provide asset management services to pension funds and large financial institutions such as Pitney-Bowes, Chase Manhattan Bank and the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, the world's largest privately managed pension fund.

By the mid-1990s McCoy saw a growing need for real estate and institutional asset management in African American communities and the not-for-profit sector. He attempted to fulfill these needs with the founding of UrbanAmerica. As President and chief executive officer, McCoy has seen UrbanAmerica grow tremendously. Some of its projects have included shopping malls in Florida, medical offices in Las Vegas, and police precincts in Maryland.

McCoy is a rising star in black business today having been profiled by Fortune, U.S. News & World Report, Black Enterprise, Time and the Wall Street Journal. In addition, he is the recipient of numerous awards and an honorary degree.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richmond McCoy was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 9, 2001, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Real estate entrepreneur Richmond McCoy (1954 -) is the founder, president and CEO of UrbanAmerica. The company works in real estate and institutional asset management in African American communities and the not-for-profit sector. Some of its projects have included shopping malls in Florida, medical offices in Las Vegas, and police precincts in Maryland.

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:

McCoy, Richmond S., 1954-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McCoy, Richmond S., 1954---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Private Equity Chief 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 Richmond McCoy, March 9, 2001. 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 Richmond McCoy, Section A2001_047_001_001, TRT: 0:29:49
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Real estate developer Richmond S. McCoy talks about his parents and their backgrounds. He shares memories of his childhood on a dairy farm in upstate New York, and of the racism and harassment he encountered as one of a small number of African American children in his school in the 1960s.

Video Oral History Interview with Richmond McCoy, Section A2001_047_001_002, TRT: 0:31:04
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Real estate developer Richmond S. McCoy recalls his teenage years, including the death of his father when he was thirteen. He tells about working in sales for Collier's Encyclopedias where he met with great success, and he shares the lessons he learned about selling, communications and self-confidence. He goes on to talk about his decision to get into commercial real estate and describes his experiences at his first real estate jobs, the successful firm he started with partners in 1984, Richard Sykes & Partners, and his decision to found his own firm, R.M.C. Group, in 1991.

Video Oral History Interview with Richmond McCoy, Section A2001_047_001_003, TRT: 0:30:12
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Real estate developer Richmond S. McCoy describes the development of his business, R.M.C. Group, his move into handling real estate investment for pension funds and investing in urban communities. He recounts how he began doing work for religious institutions and formed a company, McCoy Development Corporation, to handle this aspect of his business. He then discusses the founding of UrbanAmerica, L.P., with the support of a group of high-powered African American executives, and the success the company has had with real estate investment in urban minority neighborhoods.

Video Oral History Interview with Richmond McCoy, Section A2001_047_001_004, TRT: 0:18:40
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Real estate developer Richmond S. McCoy discusses his ideas about the need for African Americans to work together to further business interests, his belief in the potential of development in the urban core and his concerns about the black community's problems with drugs and lack of education. He shares his personal philosophy of success and reflects on his legacy. He also narrates a series of photos of himself and family members.