

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Timothy Lee Richardson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Richardson, Timothy Lee, 1958-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Timothy Lee Richardson,
Dates:	September 14, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:30:42).
Abstract:	Nonprofit executive Timothy Lee Richardson (1958 -) was Vice President of Military Services and International Projects for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Richardson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 14, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_265
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Tim Richardson was born on July 28, 1958, in Los Angeles, California, to teenage parents, Christeale Dandridge and Irving Mothershed. His mother passed away when he was four years old, and he did not meet his father until he was thirty-five years old. Richardson's grandmother, Alyce Dandridge, raised him and his brother, Lee, in South Central Los Angeles, in the Pueblo Del Rio Housing Projects.

Having recognized that Richardson was an honor roll student with a gift for creative writing and a talent for sports, his extended family decided that he and his brother needed an opportunity to get a better education. Richardson was invited to live with his Aunt Della and Uncle Bob Goodwin, the first African American network television screenwriter, who lived in Bel Air, California. Richardson attended University High School, formerly Warren G. Hardin High School, alongside the children of movie stars, and graduated in 1976.

Richardson played basketball for West Los Angeles Community College and was recruited to play for Chapman College (now University). When his scholarship ended, he began a work-study program that landed him his first position at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). Richardson married and began to work full-time, holding various leadership positions in the BGCA's Program Services Department and attending classes at Chapman College; he received his B.S degree in business administration and marketing in 1986.

In 1987 Richardson joined the BGCA national staff to manage the Olympic Sports Program, a sports training and development initiative with funding from the United States Olympic Committee. Richardson managed the Fourth Cliff II Civil-Military Teen Apprenticeship Program, an alliance between the U.S. Army Reserve Command and community groups in thirteen cities. He was one of three civilian consultants invited by the Department of Defense to revamp youth services policy for all military branches and was the lead negotiator in affiliating all 461 on-installation military youth centers with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Prior to his appointment in June 2003 as Vice President of Military Services and International Projects, Richardson was BGCA's Senior Director of Sports, Fitness and Recreation. Richardson conceptualized and developed a multi-element health and fitness

initiative, managed a national vision screening care program, the Nike sponsored P.L.A.Y Sports Program and for eight years the Alumni Hall of Fame annual awards ceremony.

Richardson lives in Atlanta, Georgia and is married to Ayoka Chenzira.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Timothy Lee Richardson was conducted by Denise Gines on September 14, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nonprofit executive Timothy Lee Richardson (1958 -) was Vice President of Military Services and International Projects for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

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:

Richardson, Timothy Lee, 1958-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Richardson, Timothy Lee, 1958- --Interviews

Nonprofit organizations--Employees--United States--Interviews

Youth workers--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Timothy Lee Richardson, September 14, 2007. 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 Timothy Lee Richardson, Section A2007_265_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Timothy Lee Richardson was born on July 28, 1958 in Los Angeles, California to Christeale Dandridge and Irving Mothershed. After the end of slavery, Richardson's paternal family members became landowners in Kiblah, Arkansas, near the Texas border. His father, who had a troubled upbringing, met Richardson's mother while they were in high school in Los Angeles. Richardson was born around this time, and did not meet his father until later in life. In the 1920s, his maternal great-grandparents moved from Chicago, Illinois to Los Angeles. There, his maternal great-grandfather worked for the postal service, and his great-grandmother joined the Daughters of the American Revolution. His maternal grandmother worked in food service at the Hollywood Palladium while her children were young, and later worked as a domestic. Richardson's mother passed away when he was a child, and he and his younger brother were raised by his grandmother in the Pueblo Del Rio public housing development in Los Angeles.

Nonprofit organizations--Employees--United States--Interviews.

Youth workers--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Timothy Lee Richardson, Section A2007_265_001_002, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

Timothy Lee Richardson grew up in the Pueblo Del Rio public housing development in Los Angeles, California, where he lived with his younger brother and maternal grandmother. He witnessed the riots of 1965, which affected Watts as well as his own neighborhood. Richardson began his education at Los Angeles' Holmes Avenue Elementary School. There, he was an avid reader; participated in the school's drama productions; and played the cello. In 1969, Richardson entered Thomas Alva Edison Junior High School. To avoid the local drug and gang culture, he focused on his studies and his own self-preservation. At this time, Richardson discovered his interest in writing, and was influenced by his uncle, Robert L. Goodwin, who wrote screenplays for popular television programs like 'Bonanza,' 'All in the Family' and 'The Big Valley.' In 1973, Richardson moved into Goodwin's home in the Bel-Air neighborhood, where the high schools had better educational resources.

Video Oral History Interview with Timothy Lee Richardson, Section A2007_265_001_003, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Timothy Lee Richardson moved from the Pueblo Del Rio housing project to his aunt and uncle's home in the Bel-Air neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, where there were better educational opportunities. He attended University High School, which was majority-white, unlike his former schools that were mostly black and Latino. Richardson's cousins introduced him to their friends, some of whom lived in Baldwin Hills, a black, middle class neighborhood. Richardson studied jewelry making at University High School, and worked as a jeweler's apprentice in Los Angeles' Westwood neighborhood. Upon graduating in 1976, Richardson enrolled at West Los Angeles College in Culver City, California,

where he played on the basketball team. During his first year, his maternal grandmother passed away. While studying, Richardson also worked at Innisfree Manufacturing, Inc. under jeweler Neil Aronow. In 1980, Richardson earned an associate's degree in business, and then matriculated to Chapman College in Orange, California.

Video Oral History Interview with Timothy Lee Richardson, Section A2007_265_001_004, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Timothy Lee Richardson attended Chapman College in Orange, California. There, he played basketball; wrote for the school newspaper; and served in student government. Through a work study program, Richardson began working at the Boys Clubs of Tustin in Tustin, California, where he met his first wife. He transitioned to the Boys Clubs of America regional office in North Hollywood, California as the director of the Olympic sports program, and traveled throughout the country to foster youth involvement. While the position expanded his career, it also affected his marriage. After his divorce in 1988, Richardson moved to New York City, where he oversaw the organization's sports development and training programs, and facilitated a partnership between the Boys Clubs of America and Nike, Inc. In 1993, Richardson moved to Atlanta, Georgia to foster a relationship between the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the United States Olympic Committee. He also helped establish programs on U.S. military bases worldwide.

Video Oral History Interview with Timothy Lee Richardson, Section A2007_265_001_005, TRT: 0:31:12 ?

Timothy Lee Richardson partnered with the U.S. military to establish Boys and Girls Clubs of America programs on U.S. military bases worldwide. Through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, he served as a consultant for other countries, like South Africa, that sought to establish an equivalent organization for disadvantaged youth. At the time of the interview, Richardson had recently married Ayoka Chenzira, an international filmmaker and professor of digital media at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. He reflects upon his life and legacy; his hopes and concerns for African American youth; and the impact of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, which was attended by such figures as actor Denzel Washington, athlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey and President Bill Clinton when they were children. Richardson concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.