

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wenda Weekes Moore

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Moore, Wenda Weekes, 1941-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore,
Dates:	January 15, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:27:27).
Abstract:	Civic leader Wenda Weekes Moore (1941 -) served as the first African American chairperson of the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents and was chair of the Board of Trustees for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 15, 2012, in Edina, Minnesota. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_003
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader Wenda Weekes Moore was born in Boston, Massachusetts on December 24, 1941 to Sylvia Means Weekes and obstetrician-gynecologist Leroy Randolph Weekes. Moore grew up in Los Angeles, California and graduated from Los Angeles High School. She attended Howard University, the alma mater of both her parents, and earned her B.A. degree in political science in 1963.

In 1973, Moore was appointed by Governor Wendell Anderson to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and became the first African American chairperson of the board, a position she held from 1975 to 1982. She joined the staff of Governor Wendell Anderson as an assistant in 1976. In 1979, Moore led the University of Minnesota's first educational exchange delegation to the People's Republic of China. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the Board of Advisors at the United States Department of Education in 1980. Moore then joined the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 1989, where she became chair of the Board of Trustees in 2001. The Patino Moore Legacy Award was established to honor Moore's leadership in the fields of higher education and public service in 2011. She has served as a visiting scholar at the Clinton School's Center on Community Philanthropy.

Moore is on the board of directors of several organizations including the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the Council on Foundations, Greywolf Press, Minneapolis Council on Churches, Ms. Foundation for Women and Women's Funding Network. She has served on the Federal District Judge Selection Commission, the National Committee on Presidential Selection and the Board of Advisors to the General Medical College. She has received the Legacy Award from the Pan African Community Endowment. Moore is married to Cornell Leverette Moore and they have three children, Lynne, Jonathon, and Meredith.

Wenda Weekes Moore was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on 01/15/2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Wenda Weekes Moore was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 15, 2012, in Edina, Minnesota, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader Wenda Weekes Moore (1941 -) served as the first African American chairperson of the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents and was chair of the Board of Trustees for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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:

Moore, Wenda Weekes, 1941-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Moore, Wenda Weekes, 1941- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

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 Wenda Weekes Moore, January 15, 2012. 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 Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_001, TRT: 1:31:41 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore was born on December 24, 1941 in Fort Devens, Massachusetts to Sylvia Means Weekes and Leroy Weekes. Her maternal great-grandmother, Katie Horne Means, was born a slave in North Carolina. After emancipation, she became the owner of a small farm, where Moore's mother visited as a child. Moore's paternal grandparents, Oneida Weekes and Randolph Weekes, migrated from Barbados to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Her parents met on the campus of Howard University; and, upon graduating, her mother taught in

North Carolina while her father studied at the Howard University College of Medicine. After they married, Moore's father enlisted in the U.S. military. During World War II, he served as a flight surgeon at bases throughout the United States, including in Tuskegee, Alabama. Due to his experiences of discrimination in the segregated military, Moore's father decided to join a private medical practice owned by a fellow Howard University alumnus in Los Angeles, California.

Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_002, TRT: 2:29:55 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore grew up in the Gramercy Park section of Los Angeles, California. Her family lived next door to Donald Mills of The Mills Brothers; and Moore's father, physician Leroy Weekes, often treated the celebrities who visited the Mills' home. He was also an instructor at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and the first African American member of the California State Board of Medical Examiners. Moore's father was active with the National Urban League, and was a close friend of future Mayor Tom Bradley. He was also an accomplished violinist, performing with the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra. Under his influence, Moore served as the orchestra's pianist at 24th Street Elementary School, and edited the school newspaper at Mt. Vernon Junior High School. After graduating from Los Angeles High School, she moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University. She majored in political science, and decided to minor in history after attending a lecture by John Hope Franklin.

Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_003, TRT: 3:28:25 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore earned her bachelor's degree from Howard University, where she met her future husband, Cornell Leverette Moore, at a party during her senior year. They dated for a short time, and then she returned to Los Angeles, California to enroll in a graduate program at the University of Southern California. He continued to court Moore from afar, until her mother, Sylvia Means Weekes, invited him to come to California. Impressed by his persistence, Moore agreed to continue their relationship, and attended her future husband's graduation from Howard University School of Law. He began his career at the Crocker National Bank in San Francisco, California, where Moore joined him after they married. They then lived in Washington, D.C. , until Moore's husband was assigned to the satellite Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There, Moore joined a local chapter of The Links, and began campaigning for a seat on the Minneapolis Board of Education.

Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_004, TRT: 4:32:04 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore nearly won her campaign for the Minneapolis Board of Education, and was recruited to serve as the education aide to Minnesota Governor Wendell Anderson. Moore facilitated community activist Josie Johnson's appointment to the Minnesota Board of Regents in 1971; and, after Johnson left Minnesota a few years later, Governor Anderson nominated Moore to take her seat. As a regent of Minnesota's university system, Moore helped select C. Peter Magrath as the president of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She also testified before the Minnesota Senate concerning another regent's anti-Semitic comments, and persuaded the board to address student concerns during the Salad Bowl strikes of 1970. With the support of Chairman Elmer L. Andersen, Moore was elected vice chairwoman and then chairwoman of the Board of Regents. Under her leadership, the University of Minnesota

divested from South Africa, and established a reciprocal foreign exchange program with China in the late 1970s.

Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_005, TRT: 5:30:34 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore served as the chairwoman of the Minnesota Board of Regents, where she advocated for the continuation of the University of Minnesota's open enrollment policy. In 1980, Moore was appointed to the U.S. Department of Education's board of advisors by President Jimmy Carter. She went on to join the board of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 1988. After visiting the dilapidated Dorothy Hall in Tuskegee, Alabama, Moore initiated the construction of the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the grounds of Tuskegee University. She also refused to provide funding to Mount Vernon, President George Washington's historic home in Virginia, until the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association acknowledged the role of slavery on the plantation. Additionally, Moore met with South African President Nelson Mandela on multiple occasions. She established a scholarship at the Howard University College of Medicine in memory of her father, Leroy Weekes, who died in 1994.

Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_006, TRT: 6:35:43 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore worked to address the issue of food deserts during her tenure as the chairwoman of the board of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Under her leadership, the foundation developed community gardens and helped convenience stores expand their fresh fruit and vegetable selection. At this point, Moore talks about food activist Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard program; as well as the foundation's emphasis on ending health disparities, which originated with founder Will Keith Kellogg. Moore also attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, where she was influenced to change the foundation's programs and internal policies to support gender equality. She recalls the inauguration of President Barack Obama, and talks about her support for First Lady Michelle Obama's health and wellness programs. Moore concludes this part of the interview by remembering the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and describing her hopes for the future.

Video Oral History Interview with Wenda Weekes Moore, Section A2012_003_001_007, TRT: 7:19:05 ?

Wenda Weekes Moore describes how she would like to be remembered, and concludes the interview by narrating her photographs.