

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with B. K. Fulton

---

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Fulton, B. K., 1966-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with B. K. Fulton,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 5, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:01:14).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate executive B K. Fulton (1966 - ) was the associate director of technology programs and policy at the National Urban League. He also served as a vice president at AOL Time Warner, Inc. and Verizon Communications, Inc. Fulton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 5, 2016, in Richmond, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_097
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive B. Keith “B.K.” Fulton was born on January 10, 1966 in Hampton, Virginia to Flora Lee and Bennie Fulton. He earned his B.S. degree in urban affairs and planning from Virginia Polytechnic and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia in 1989, in addition to his professional certification in public policy analysis and management from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In 1991, Fulton received his M.S. degree in urban policy and management from the Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy in New York City. Fulton went on to earn his J.D. degree in 1998 from New York Law School, where he concentrated in electronic commerce, intellectual property and telecommunications law.

Between 1991 and 2000, Fulton directed the National Urban League’s Technology Programs and Policy Office, where his initiatives included the development of technology and access centers and an urban technology summit. Fulton was appointed executive director of corporate outreach at America Online (AOL) in 2000, before becoming vice president of corporate relations at the newly merged AOL Time Warner, Inc. in 2001. Between 2003 and 2004, Fulton served as a senior policy analyst for the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Office of Policy Analysis and Development. He became the vice president of strategic alliances for Verizon Communications, Inc. in 2004, and the president of Verizon West Virginia in 2014. In 2016, Fulton and his wife, Jacquelyn E. Stone, established the B. Keith Fulton and Jacquelyn E. Stone S.T.E.A.M. Endowed Scholarship at Virginia Tech to provide support to underrepresented undergraduate students majoring in science, technology, engineering, architecture or mathematics. In collaboration with his former AOL Time Warner, Inc. colleague Jerry Craft, Fulton also authored a children’s book entitled *Shauna*, inspired by his relationship with his younger sister who has Rett Syndrome, published in 2015.

Fulton served on the board of Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Virginia Tech Alumni Association, Per Scholas, Gifts in Kind International and Howard University’s School of Communications. In 2016, Fulton became the chairman of dityApps.com, an app and web developer, and chairman of Ario L.L.C., a company specializing in

augmented reality software. He is also the Chairman and CEO of Soulidify Productions, a full feature film, TV, and stage production and investment company.

Fulton and his wife, Jacquelyn E. Stone, have twin sons, Joshua and Terrell.

B. K. Fulton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 5, 2016.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with B. K. Fulton was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 5, 2016, in Richmond, Virginia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate executive B K. Fulton (1966 - ) was the associate director of technology programs and policy at the National Urban League. He also served as a vice president at AOL Time Warner, Inc. and Verizon Communications, Inc.

---

## 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:

Fulton, B. K., 1966-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Fulton, B. K., 1966- --Interviews

---

## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

## Occupations:

Corporate 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 B. K. Fulton, December 5, 2016. 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 B. K. Fulton, Section A2016\_097\_001\_001, TRT: 1:34:19 ?

B. K. Fulton was born on January 10, 1966 in Hampton, Virginia to Flora Lee Fulton and Bennie Fulton. His mother was born in 1945 in Murfreesboro, North Carolina. Her parents later moved to Newport News, Virginia, where Fulton's maternal grandmother worked at a factory and his grandfather became a postal employee. Fulton's parents in chapel at Fayetteville State College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His father was from New Bern, North Carolina, where Fulton's paternal grandmother was a domestic and his grandfather was a logger. Fulton began his education at the integrated Francis Mallory Elementary School in Hampton, where he excelled in both academics and athletics. After his family moved to the majority-white Denbigh neighborhood of Newport News, Fulton attended Newsome Park Elementary School. He was then bused to J.M. Dozier Middle School in downtown Newport News. While his father encouraged his football talent, Fulton preferred playing basketball.

Video Oral History Interview with B. K. Fulton, Section A2016\_097\_001\_002, TRT: 2:32:26 ?

B. K. Fulton grew up in Newport News, Virginia, where he helped care for his younger sister, Shauna Fulton, who was developmentally disabled. With his family, he attended the First Baptist Church Far East End in Newport News. Fulton studied at Newport News' Denbigh High School in the early 1980s, and excelled in math and basketball. During his senior year, he took an introductory computer course, where he learned to write code and successfully programmed an automated teller machine. Fulton went on to enroll in the engineering program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia. After his grades suffered, he transferred into Virginia Tech's School of Architecture and Design. There, he recommitted himself to his coursework in urban affairs and planning; and he was mentored by his advanced placement professor, Richard D. Shingles. Fulton went on to become the school's first outstanding young alumnus in architecture.

Video Oral History Interview with B. K. Fulton, Section A2016\_097\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:20 ?

B. K. Fulton attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University School of Architecture and Design in Blacksburg, Virginia. As an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship recipient, he studied at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts during his senior year. Upon graduating in 1989, Fulton enrolled at the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at The New School for Social Research in New York City. With support from the Abyssinian Development Corporation, Fulton wrote his thesis, 'Ghetto No More,' as a redevelopment strategy for New York City's Central Harlem neighborhood. His plan was then enacted by the Harlem Urban Development Corporation. In addition, his work with local students led to the creation of the President's Distinguished Internship. In 1991, he became an associate director at the National Urban League under the leadership of John H. Jacob. Fulton went on to create the Urban League's technology program and policy department.

Video Oral History Interview with B. K. Fulton, Section A2016\_097\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:51 ?

B. K. Fulton served as an associate director of the National Urban League, where he instituted technology centers nationwide. He also testified before U.S. Congress on the lack of digital access in poor communities, which led to the creation of the Digital Divide Network, a technology resource database. In recognition of his contributions in community technology, Fulton received the Computer World Smithsonian Award. Then in 1994, he decided to enroll in the New York Law School in New York City, where he concentrated on electronic commerce and telecommunications law. He also became the technical editor of the Media and Law Policy journal. Fulton joined America Online, Inc. as the

executive director of corporate outreach in 2000, just after the Y2K scare. In this position, Fulton started technology programs like the AOL Peace Packs, the Education Technology Leadership Institute and PowerUp. He was also mentored by Time Warner CEO Richard Parsons.

Video Oral History Interview with B. K. Fulton, Section A2016\_097\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:27 ?

B. K. Fulton became the vice president of corporate relations at AOL Time Warner, Inc. in 2001. Heeding the advice of his former law school professor, Michael Botein, Fulton joined the Office of Policy Analysis and Development at the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2003. There, he worked on the Next Generation Internet Protocol and contributed to technical publications. Fulton was then hired at Verizon Communications, Inc., where he addressed the issue of redlining in the Verizon FiOS TV infrastructure. In 2007, he became the first African American president of Verizon West Virginia, Inc. After three years, he transitioned to the role of vice president of the Mid-Atlantic region of Verizon Communications, Inc., and he was later promoted as the lead executive of Verizon Virginia, Inc. In 2014, he married attorney Jacquelyn E. Stone. In 2015, Fulton retired from Verizon Communications, Inc., and went on to chair several corporate and university boards, including Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Video Oral History Interview with B. K. Fulton, Section A2016\_097\_001\_006, TRT: 6:25:51 ?

B.K. Fulton retired from Verizon Communications, Inc. at the age of forty-nine years old. Also that year, he published his children's book, 'Shauna,' which was based on his experiences of caring for his younger sister, Shauna Fulton, who was born with a neurodevelopmental disorder called Rett syndrome. The book was illustrated by Jerry Craft, and edited by poet laureate Nikki Giovanni. At the time of the interview, Fulton was involved with business endeavors like DITY Apps LLC, a mobile apps company; and Ario LLC, a minority-owned augmented reality company in Newport News, Virginia. Fulton had two sons: Joshua Fulton and Terrell Fulton. He and his wife, Jacquelyn E. Stone, also cared for her nephew, Sam Stone. Fulton describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He reflects upon his life, business philosophy and how he would like to be remembered. He concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.