

An Interview with  
**Malaika Horne**

at *The Historical Society of Missouri* St. Louis  
Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri

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**Oral History Program**

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## PREFACE

The interview was taped on a placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [ ] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets [ ]. Any use of parentheses ( ) indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks ["" ] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [   ] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [   (??) ] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Josephine Sporleder.

William Fischetti: Ms. Horne, why don't you introduce yourself.

Malaika Horne: My name is Malaika Horne, I was born in St. Louis and I'm third in the constellation of six children. My parents had three daughters and three sons and I'm a product of the public school system. My father was a teamster truck driver. My mother was a housewife, most of the time and we lived first in Mill Creek which, because of urban renewal, we had to move and most of the African Americans in Mill Creek moved to the west end. My mother didn't want to do that because she was very forward thinking and she didn't want to live in one of those big houses that had to be kept up. There were a lot of other expenses to living in those big houses in the west end so we moved to the north side that had smaller houses: cottages and bungalows but it was a little too small but she thought, "Well, we'll be moving pretty soon," once we graduate from high school and college because she demanded that we all go to college and we all did but it was still too small at the time. First I went to Johnson Elementary School named after James Weldon Johnson who you probably know, his brother, James Roselyn Johnson, I think James Weldon Johnson, I think they both wrote the Negro National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* and then we went to Waring another African American school which is now the Chavis Center, where the Chavis Center is now and we only went there for maybe a year or two and then after that we transferred to Ashland, which was predominantly white at the time which was a cultural shock, mainly because all the subjects were emphasized differently, taught differently. People didn't understand when you de-segregate a school system, that there are differences in both systems and that wasn't taken into account so my grades sort of went down and the teachers weren't always like the teachers at Johnson and Waring. On the one hand, the teachers at Johnson and Waring were into corporal punishment so they beat us a lot and they were very authoritarian so there were no problems at Johnson and Waring. It was discipline. We were afraid of them. But then when we went to the predominantly white school, they didn't exercise corporal punishment but they didn't seem too interested in us either. So it was six in one hand, half a dozen in the other so my grades sort of went down. My other sisters and brothers who went from predominantly black to predominantly white did not so it was mainly me and maybe my younger brother. So it was my sister, Gwen, my brother, Jerrold and my brother, Marvin and myself who transferred over. My older sister and brother

went to Vishon but after that, they went to Lincoln and then St. Louis University...my sister did, my older sister went to Lincoln and St. Louis University. My older brother went to Harris-Stowe and then he transferred to University of Kansas and then he came back to St. Louis and graduated from law school. So my brother has just retired as an administrative law judge, federal judge. He was a corporate lawyer before that and my sister also got a Ph.D. from St. Louis University and then my younger sister got...we both went here, to undergraduate, to UMSL, to University of Missouri-St. Louis, and then she went to Washington University and then to Indiana University and she never completed her doctorate but she works the History Museum. She majored in history at Indiana and then I went, after I graduated from here in sociology, because I wasn't as good a student as her, so I decided I would take every class she took because she was always smarter than me, she's one year younger, I'd just sit next to her and see how she does that. Once I got the hang of it, because she did two things: she went to class, she never skipped and she took notes and once I learned, oh, is that what you do and you read the books, you read the assignments? So once I learned that better, then I went to St. Louis University, got a Master's in Urban Affairs and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from St. Louis University and then I went to Washington University Medical School and got a post-doc in epidemiology and biostatistics.

William Fischetti: So where did you go to high school?

Malaika Horne: I went to Beaumont High School. The first two went to Vishon and the other four went to Beaumont but that was Beaumont before they changed. When we went to Beaumont, they had a lot of college preparatory courses and they changed all that for some reason. I hate to think the worst, that as it became all black, they changed it, but they did. So we had a lot of these teachers. Then they had Track A, Track B, remember that, Track C and all of that. So we were mainly in Track A and so they taught us like they were teaching college and so that was really, I think, good for our being successful in college. But once I look back, my older sister and brother went to Vishon because my older brother got the Harvard Book Award at the time so he was...they were all smart. At the time, I was the least smartest person in my family so I felt like a blah. I felt...and then being the third, I didn't think anybody paid me any attention. My younger brother was not that good in school. He went here

too but he didn't finish but he was a real good guitarist so he took guitar lessons from about 12 or 13 and so he's a jazz musician in New York.

William Fischetti: That worked out.

Malaika Horne: Yeah, it worked out. He's a starving artist.

William Fischetti: So, when you first went into the integrated school, how did the other students treat you?

Malaika Horne: Well, at the black schools, they put a lot of emphasis on dissecting sentences and grammar and we broke up into groups and the students who were able to grasp the subject the best were able to teach the other students. It was a different way of teaching and, of course, like I said, they ran it. They were the boss. We did everything they told us to do. We were afraid of them. It was very different at Ashland where they taught literature, which we weren't familiar as much with. They put more emphasis on math, less emphasis on spelling. At the black school, I was always...because I'm a good speller. I didn't realize that would help me with English and writing. They didn't put a lot and so even though I made good grades in spelling, nobody paid that any attention because that wasn't an emphasis. So those kind of things.

William Fischetti: I mean the other students, the white students. Did they treat you okay?

Malaika Horne: No. One thing that helped me understand diversity is that children are more blunt and they will let you know what they think about you where the adults are more duplicitous so most of the time we didn't know. But, yeah, they let us know: "we don't like you and we think we're..."...they may not have said it exactly like..."and we think we're better than you."

William Fischetti: I wonder how many of them got Ph.D.s.

Malaika Horne: I don't know. I still have my graduation grade school photo where there were, like, four African Americans and the rest, maybe about 30 in total were white but I don't know what happened.

William Fischetti: So when you started college, you went here.

Malaika Horne: I went to St. Louis Community College first because my parents had almost all of us in college at the same time and so if one had to be sacrificed, it was going to be me because I was the least studious and

then I didn't do well at St. Louis Community College at first so then I started going part-time and I started working, first through the Neighborhood Youth Corps and then I got a job at Mercantile Trust Company, a bank, and that's probably where I kind of came into my own, got my groove. My parents, particularly my mother, said, "We are not going to even help you with your tuition at St. Louis Community College until you do better so you're going to have to work and go to school." I guess I needed a real hard experience and I tell this to my husband all the time: There was a girl about my age who also went to the community college and she lived right across the street. So as I was taking the last class, that meant I got out maybe about 10 minutes to 10:00, I didn't get home until maybe 11:00 because that was when it was at Roosevelt High School. This lady who was...we had a mutual friend but we weren't that much of a friend. She would stop at that stop light, at Grand and Arsenal and look over there at me and keep going and she lived right across the street. So it was like, that signaled something to me, that if anybody's going to take charge of their success, it was going to be me. And I grew up overnight and I became the most irresponsible to the most hyper responsible so I'm really happy that my parents pushed me out of the house and said they're not going to help me anymore until I did better in school. So I worked my way through school most of the time here at UMSL but then I think the last year, I stopped working and went full-time so I could graduate.

William Fischetti: And that was in sociology?

Malaika Horne: Yeah, I have a BA in sociology.

William Fischetti: So you went to graduate school?

Malaika Horne: At St. Louis University, Urban Affairs, and then a Ph.D. in Public Policy.

William Fischetti: To be honest with you, I'm not sure what you do here but it's something related...

Malaika Horne: Yeah, everything that I have learned in my work and in my school has helped me to do what I do here and almost 11 years ago, I established what is now called the Executive Leadership Consortium which mainly brings leaders to campus, so I work with a lot of executives to expose them...for students to be exposed to them so they can learn about the practical aspects of being successful in their careers. The students love

them and so I have small programs and big programs. The big programs are, like, distinguished speakers series and the great lectures series where I work with the dean and the chancellor and this is an opportunity, as they saw that these programs were so successful and well attended, because we usually have maybe 150, sometimes 350 people because I've learned how to build an audience. Then they can really, after the program is over with, cultivate a relationship with them and see if they can be more involved in the university in some way.

William Fischetti: Was this the first job after you...

Malaika Horne: Oh, no, no, for 20 years I...no, I worked at Washington University, I was director of the Institute of Black Studies; I worked at Jeff Van de Leuve before that, which is a housing agency because my Master's Degree is in Urban Affairs but the housing emphasis, and then for many, many years, maybe 20 years, I ran a drug treatment center. I was the managing director. I was promoted, in my 20's, after two years, I was over people who were much older than me. We had a concept of ex-addicts and professionals working together...and I just thought of that...so we had a real world kind of view of counseling and helping clients. Then we had the professional view that kind of reminds me of what I'm doing now. That was probably the best experience because I was so sheltered growing up. All we could do when we grew up was go to the library. That's it. My mother worked her fingers to the bone so we could study. So even though we grew up in an area in Mill Creek that was kind of run down and slummy, we couldn't go outside the yard and all we could do is go to the library. So once I started working at the drug treatment center, I saw these drug addicts and pimps and prostitutes, hustlers and boy were they savvy and cunning. I had no idea people were like this. So, I probably haven't mentioned, I was on the Board of Curators and at the time...well, I had worked at Washington University when I got my post-doc so it was working, it was a fellowship, but before that...the reason why they recruited me to Washington University was because we were doing research on drug abuse and AIDS and they knew I had a real handle on the lifestyle, the people and those kinds of things. Once I got to the Board of Curators, they thought I would be maybe intimidated or shy. This was a piece of cake because what I started to see is a little bit of sociopathy in everybody and I was so trained to look for sociopathy in the clients which was magnified many times, I started looking for it in everybody. So that's



how I was able to say it was true. I saw the charm and I saw the competition and the cunning. Well, even if you're at the bottom or at the top...maybe not so much at the middle because the middle-class are sort of cushioned, so to speak, but at the top and at the bottom, is very similar, to me. It's very competitive and sometimes very ruthless and very cut-throaty and so I fit in quite well on the Board of Curators.

William Fischetti: I wanted to ask you if there was a teacher that really influenced you when you were in school.

Malaika Horne: You know what? The only one I can think of is...because it was so long ago, at Johnson. I can't remember and Waring was a blur and we were afraid of most of them anyway, even though they taught us. The only one that really warms my heart is Dr. Don Springle at St. Louis University and maybe Earnest Calloway who I had in my Master's program because they saw something in me where the other teachers didn't see my potential. I didn't see it and from what I can remember, they basically didn't see it either. So Dr. Don Springle, he went to the mat for me and when I got out of graduate school for my Master's and I went back for my Ph.D. and I met with him, I said, "Will you be on my dissertation committee?" He said, "Whoa, whoa, that's a long way," but I must have planted a seed because he became head of my committee and he picked the other two committee members that he could influence because I had the other two...I had all of them...I took all of Dr. Springle's classes and I had the other two but, again, as I was saying the other day, I would raise my hand with one of the professors and say something that nobody else knew and he would just say, "Oh, yeah, well, then, we'll just continue..."...but then when somebody else said something, he'd be all fascinated and praising them. So Don Springle didn't do that and I will always... a lot of the students who had him, across ethnicities, they say the same thing about him. He was an extraordinary professor and we had meaningful discussions about research and public policies and all those kind of things. The other professors and teachers from grade school to then, basically maybe because they had so much to do, I don't know, I just didn't have that experience.

William Fischetti: And what kind of classes did you take with Earnest Calloway?

Malaika Horne: I can't remember. I know I wrote a paper that he really liked. He said I was his best student and after a while, he invited me...I met his wife,

Diverne Calloway and he invited me to their home and they would regale me with all types of stories about being a teamster and being an activist. He was a really good role model, both of them were.

William Fischetti: We have both of their papers here, by the way.

Malaika Horne: Oh, do you?

William Fischetti: Yeah.

Malaika Horne: Well, I knew them well.

William Fischetti: They're a wonderful collection.

Malaika Horne: I knew them well.

William Fischetti: So, when you got your Ph.D. after the drug clinic...

Malaika Horne: ...drug treatment center.

William Fischetti: ...drug treatment center, then where did you go after that?

Malaika Horne: I went and got a post-doc at Washington University Medical School and got a post-doc in psychiatric epidemiology and biostatistics.

William Fischetti: I have no idea what that is.

Malaika Horne: Look at the incidence and prevalence of diseases, we did longitudinal studies.

William Fischetti: And does this relate to drug addiction?

Malaika Horne: My dissertation was on drug policies and because I did a dissertation on drug policies and I knew...when you are, as you know, at a university, you may not be as familiar with the population that you're studying and once I became the managing director, I insisted, with the executive director, is that we got to really study these people. I would pass by somebody and that were giving out bad information. I'm like, oh, no, so he says, "Well, you got to put together a training module" so I had to do all the research, train everybody and they didn't like it. They didn't like me. Then somebody told me they would say behind my back, "Well, once you finish Ms. Malaika..."...that's what they would call me before I got my with Ph.D. "...you will know something" and so we, I think, got better at...but

as I studied it and had to train people, of course, then I became even more knowledgeable about the population.

William Fischetti: Where did you go to work when you graduated?

Malaika Horne: I ended up going to Webster University because my older sister was working there but then she got a job at Wooster College, in Wooster, Ohio because she had a Ph.D. from St. Louis University and so she recommended that I work there part-time and so I was working there part-time and then, because of budget cuts and the board deciding to close the center, then I asked them if I could work there full-time. Then I started working there full-time. When I was on the board of curators, I was really teaching at a private university and on the board of a public university. That might have been the first time that's ever happened.

William Fischetti: That's interesting. So, how did you come here?

Malaika Horne: Blanche Touhill and I really bonded and UMSL more or less seemed to be a step-child to me, among the four campuses and then I started to...not just with her, with Blanche Touhill, but all the chancellors became very sympathetic towards what they had to address and all their problems and constraints and so we kind of bonded and sometimes we'd even ride up to Columbia together, Don Driemyer and I, sometimes. Most of the time we didn't but sometimes. But then one time she was telling me about this idea that she had because she said that the students here...which is true, even for me...are academically prepared but many of them don't come from professional families and neither did I. So they needed something like a place, a unit that could better prepare them for the soft skills and the protocols and the culture, the professional culture. There is a culture that you have to acquire in order to be successful. So, over time, as she was thinking about this particular unit, she asked me if I would apply and I did.

William Fischetti: Blanche is great. She's really in charge of what we're doing here.

Malaika Horne: I know, she's first-class.

William Fischetti: She is. So tell me what it's been like since you've been here. Have things gotten much better?

Malaika Horne: I don't think they knew how to take me. You're probably the first person that's really asked about my background. I don't know what they thought. I don't know if they thought that it was a cronyism or something but I was really more than qualified to take on this position. So some people, particularly other women, were very open. Most of the men were not. There were a few, like Mike Costello, Don Driemyer...who else? I can't think of too many others. But because I was so accustomed at the drug treatment center, dealing with such difficult situations and my boss, who was laissez-faire, to say the least, gave me all this discretion except a couple of times when somebody complained and then he'd tell me to stop and then I'd get mad because I don't like that kind of leadership at all. That's not my approach at all. But because I had to deal with and overcome such difficult situations...can you imagine, residential and out-patient... I had people, men and women, actually living there and then he asked me to develop a program for women which I did so I knew how to overcome tremendous obstacles and working here, as someone else said, UMSL is a tough place. But I came from a tough environment.

William Fischetti: And do you feel that your program has been really successful?

Malaika Horne: Yeah, I would say, I was gonna have a reign of terror up in here. They're not going to ignore me, so everywhere, the electronic sign on the campus, the TV monitor on the bridge. I would go into class...because I had no compunction about my status so whatever it took to make it successful, I did it. I didn't come originally from academia so I'm not as steeped into the culture and, in a way, it's good for me. I'm an outsider and, plus, I knew how it worked at the top and then I was a student. So I wasn't held back by some of the customs and some of the attitudes or if you are professional here, you don't do this and you do that. No, I did what it took to make it successful, and it's very successful, very successful.

William Fischetti: Basically you're teaching students what it's like to be in the real world?

Malaika Horne: Well, I'm like a broker. I bring...like, we had the executive fellows mentoring project. We have about six executives: Gary Lee, who's the son of E. Desmond Lee. He's the one that helped me to develop that program and then we added Bob Muldoon who's an international business consultant and Digna Varro who's an executive who now teaches in the business school, Tom Teasdale who was head of an

architect firm that really designed Florissant Valley, and then Beah Clark who's the former CFO of Commerce Bank Shares and then he went over to the history museum for a while, and Linda Goldstein, the former mayor of Clayton. So they do that program. They come in...the students, so I just match them in sessions, about five students and we have discussion points and they just sit around and talk and they love it because they do learn about, as Malcolm Gladwell calls it, practical intelligence, which is different, of course, from the academic side. I used to have the Women's Networking Series where I would have maybe 75 or 100 women to come in and I would have half women professionals and half students. I oriented each student, individually, 45 minutes on soft skills and protocols and then matched them at the table and then have a panel and then discussion points. Then the next semester, we would have a smaller program where we would match them one-on-one and then the woman student would go to the woman professional's place of work to shadow and learn more about the profession that they would like to go into. That recently moved over to gender studies and Ron Yazman, the dean, wanted it to be men and women, so now it's called the Men and Women's University Mentoring Project. I told you about the Distinguished Speakers series and the Great Lecture series. I used to have the Executive Lunch series where I did the same thing and the business school and again, I orient the students and then emphasize to them they have to research these people. They have to dress a certain kind of way. They have to learn how to work the room... there's a whole lot the students don't know. There's a whole lot I didn't know.

William Fischetti: I could probably use that class myself.

Malaika Horne: Well, one of the things I tell students, "You can't go up to somebody that you just met and say, 'Are you hiring?' It doesn't work that way." Even though I would tell every student not to say that, I would look and I would hear some students asking, "Are you hiring?" It doesn't work. You have to cultivate a relationship. So we talk about how to...I even broke it down even more, how to cultivate a relationship so that you can...the operative term of networking is information so you can get the information to take you to the next level. I use a schlocky term like dating, it's sort of like dating. Nobody kind of taught us how to...some are better than others but you don't walk up to somebody that you meet at a club or a party or wherever and say, "Will you marry me?" You don't do

the same thing with networking when you're looking for opportunities. So there are certain terms you use. You don't say, "Are you hiring?" Once you have a relationship, you would say something like, "I'm looking for opportunities" or "I would like some advice," certain terms. I learned a lot of that from clients because they're real savvy about how to talk to people and how to influence people but I'm doing it in a positive way as opposed to a negative way.

William Fischetti: But it's working.

Malaika Horne: Yeah because I've learned to observe. I sit in on some of the sessions, like Gary Lee, I sit in. He likes me to sit in on his sessions and then going to all these Distinguished Speakers, I've learned so much myself, going to all these programs and listening to the executives talk to the students and I'll tell you one thing: these executives, the ones who come here...I don't know about all of them...love to talk to students. So it's a great opportunity for the students.

William Fischetti: Have you ever had any students come and say, "It really worked"?

Malaika Horne: All the time, mm-hmm, all the time.

William Fischetti: So how long have you been with the university now?

Malaika Horne: It will be 11 years. I started the same day Tom George started, the same day.

William Fischetti: You were a student here when, in '60s?

Malaika Horne: I graduated in 1971, I think, but it took me longer.

William Fischetti: You've seen a lot of changes though since then.

Malaika Horne: Well, you know what? For a long time, I didn't come to campus because nobody invited me and I just went in other areas. I lived in the city most of the time. So I really didn't see it until I came back, when I got on the board of curators.

William Fischetti: It's hard to believe it's 50 years old now. We should have interviewed you for the 50<sup>th</sup>. You were very early in the...

Malaika Horne: Mm-hmm, I remember that one's house. I don't know if you remember it, the run-down house in the...

- William Fischetti: No, I wasn't here yet.
- Malaika Horne: Yeah, everybody talks about that place because it was so seedy. It was so seedy.
- William Fischetti: The country club clubhouse?
- Malaika Horne: Yeah, but you know what? We had such great professors and my sister and I, in particular, talk about, we got the best education here. When we went to the other schools, to tell you the truth, it wasn't as difficult because this was difficult and maybe UMSL was trying to get on the map. I don't know what they were trying to do but they were very rigorous and no-nonsense.
- William Fischetti: And this is a commuter college which is different than most other universities.
- Malaika Horne: You think that explains the reason why they were so hard? They were very hard. It was good though, not at the time. We suffered but in retrospect, it was good.
- William Fischetti: I think, considering everybody had to be crammed together in the early days, it was probably necessary to keep from having chaos all the time.
- Malaika Horne: Well, being a student, you never know. I didn't know what was going on. It was a long, hard slog and I was just stumbling from one course to the other and thinking, I will never graduate, but I did.
- William Fischetti: So what's your take on UMSL now, the University of Missouri-St. Louis?
- Malaika Horne: I think that it's very similar...what I do, I eavesdrop because I want to see what the students are talking about. I'm in SSB, social sciences and business building and almost every time, they're talking about class work, so being a sociologist and a researcher, that's one way I can determine, is it like it was before? Of course, we have more buildings and we're beautifying the campus and all these endowed professors and all those kind of things but I listen and I pay the students attention. I think it's just as good.
- William Fischetti: Parking, I'm sure, is an issue.
- Malaika Horne: Yeah.

- William Fischetti: It's an issue for everybody.
- Malaika Horne: Yeah, but you know what? I work out so for me it's an opportunity to stay in shape.
- William Fischetti: I never thought of it that way. It's good to put a positive spin on it.
- Malaika Horne: I'm on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and I've never taken the elevator.
- William Fischetti: All right! Well, I have to ask you this: If you would have been born 50 years earlier than when you were, what do you think your opportunities would have been?
- Malaika Horne: They would have been like my mother, who was a housewife, who was very frustrated, who had high aspirations but no opportunities. Most of the women that were her peers, they had to do domestic work or work in a factory, if they got that kind of an opportunity. They would be poor and frustrated and so that's why I'm happy about the civil rights movement and things opening up for women and people of color. My husband is doing genealogy and so he is really urging me to do more of it but he's traced his family back to the late 1600's so why is it that African Americans who have been over here all this time and every time we get to a certain point, than other people. I'm not against anybody but we have been here a long time and we deserve opportunities. We don't deserve anything but the opportunity and, as you can see, when people are given the opportunity, regardless of who they are, many of them will excel. Fifty years ago, it was horrible. The only thing I can think of is that maybe it's in our DNA because we lived in the rain forests and there were a lot of predators and quicksand and unknowns that we had the wherewithal and the skills to overcome such difficult situations. It was extreme...people don't understand how difficult it has been.
- Brian Woodman: Actually, I have a question: I'd be interested in hearing your response if you turn the question around and instead of it being how would your life have been different 50 years before, how do you think your parents' life would have been different if they'd been born 50 years later or basically if they switched places and they'd have the opportunities that you had?
- Malaika Horne: My parents were very smart. They just didn't have the opportunities and my father only went to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He was a construction worker but off season, he drove a cap and he knew every street in the city. He didn't



have to look up anything in a book on how to get there. They were very smart but I don't think, because of stereotyping and the racism and the prejudice and the sexism that they experienced, there were no opportunities. I mean, this is segregation by law. It wasn't as bad here. They came from Mississippi which was really bad. It was almost like the Holocaust. My parents bought a house and then another house in North St. Louis. Each generation tends to do better. Right now, because of stagnant wages and other kinds of problems going on with the middle-class having such problems, people are really concerned about generations in the future being able to do better than the generation before. But then my parents were so vigilant about success, they knew how hard it was going to be. This is why I really appreciate my mother, in particular, because she, since I was the most difficult and didn't understand how important education was, she made my life miserable and she would get my other sisters and brothers to jump on me and finally I just broke down and started crying and said, "If this is what you want me to do, I'll do it." So she understood the key to success, even though I think I should be even further here, to tell you the truth, but the key to success is education, if I answered your question.

Brian Woodman: You have a really interesting academic background that seems to intersect a lot with your experiences growing up, like, you were growing up in Mill Creek Valley, then the other side, that there was a lot of racism, that there was the period of white flight. Do you think there's a connection between your interest in getting in government affairs? What inspired that?

Malaika Horne: Well, my parents were really mad at the Post-Dispatch because we held out for more money for our house because they were giving owners...maybe people didn't realize a lot of people owned their homes. It was sort of like Soulard if you remember and so since they held off for so long, I remember, I can visualize the street where they were tearing down all the houses and we were the only people staying there. There might have been one other house on the block. So then they took a picture of our house once we left and then took a picture of the house where we lived and put it in the paper and said, "Now, look how much better they are." But that's when there were...glass, the windows were broken out and the whole place had been torn down. So I wanted to understand and my sister too, in particular: "Why did they do this?" So

that's why I majored in urban affairs and housing, to figure out, why did they make us move, even though, in a way, it was a better neighborhood, but the people in our neighborhood were more warm and more giving and more sharing. So it was more than just the physical place where you live. You have to be around people, especially when you're a child, who act like they care for you. So that's the reason. Working in the drug treatment center, I just stumbled into that. I had a friend who worked there and she recommended that I work there, but I was always curious about African Americans and how they fared. I came from a really race-conscious family so at the dinner table, if it wasn't sports, we were talking about race and I found out most African American families don't do that because they want to deny it but my mother was up front, "Listen, this is what you're going to have to deal with."

William Fischetti: I bet they were really proud of not just you but your brothers and sisters as well?

Malaika Horne: Well, my mother, she died in 1965. She had a kidney problem so she didn't really get a chance to...she died in 1980. She was 65 years old but she said, "Boy, I didn't think you all would go this far." She just wanted us to graduate from college but once we got the hang of it...and those years of going to the library all the time and being in all the book clubs and having to read 10 or 15 books for the summer, it paid off.

Brian Woodman: Well, given all your expertise, when you think about St. Louis today, what do you think are the biggest problems still face St. Louis as an urban area?

Malaika Horne: I think the biggest problem in St. Louis is lack of confidence in itself. Even though I wasn't always treated well, people come here and they down St. Louis and then the people who are from here agree with them. Wait a minute, you got to be proud of where you live. I was saying to somebody a few weeks ago, I was at a program some time ago and they said, "Atlanta, they engaged in shameless self-promotion," like it was a bad thing but look where Atlanta is now. Why don't we do that? And my sister...I also have a diversity radio show here on the student radio where I train the students to learn radio but, really, the backdrop is for them to learn diversity. So we have professionals and students and faculty, people outside the campus, students and faculty and so my sister came the week before last or maybe last week and she was talking about all these

important civil rights laws that came out of St. Louis and then the 250<sup>th</sup> and she was talking about all the great things that happened here and afterwards the students said, "If I'd known all of these good things about St. Louis, I would be more proud of it," and so my sister said, "I'm going to take that back to the staff" because we need to be more proud of our city. It does have problems but, as this lady was saying to me the other day when I was saying, "We need to be more proud of our city," she said, "Well, it's not Mississippi or Alabama," and I said, "The South is south of Canada. Stop trying to think that St. Louis is so different from the rest of the country. It's not." People move in and out. Some people think it's frozen. People don't move out. People don't move in. St. Louis is similar to most other places in the United States.

William Fischetti: Well, I like it here.

Malaika Horne: It's grown on me but, like a colleague told me, "So does fungus," so...

William Fischetti: I've lived other places.

Malaika Horne: Really, have you?

William Fischetti: Yes, and I loved coming back to St. Louis.

Malaika Horne: You know what? What I noticed is when you do well, you tend to like it than when you're not doing so well. You tend not to like it.

William Fischetti: Well, you probably wouldn't like wherever you were if you're not doing well, I would imagine.

Malaika Horne: Right. So it's a lot of poor people here in St. Louis and there's a lot of discrimination. I like riding the Metro Link because I get a chance to see St. Louis and my sister said, "When you ride the bus, you see how poor some people...are struggling." So we got a long way to go.

William Fischetti: Well, Atlanta does too.

Malaika Horne: That's true.

William Fischetti: I spent a lot of time in Atlanta.

Malaika Horne: Well, I don't put one city...that's why I majored in urban affairs, because I wanted to know, when people came here from a place like New York or Chicago, why did they think they were inherently superior? Because

they're from a certain city. I was curious and I don't agree with any of that.

William Fischetti: Well, St. Louis has wonderful advantages and it always has: lower rents and...so...

Malaika Horne: ...less traffic congestion, mm-hmm.

William Fischetti: Right. So, yeah, I don't know. I was born in New York.

Malaika Horne: Oh, I didn't know that.

William Fischetti: That's okay. Believe me, I couldn't live there. I couldn't live in Los Angeles either. That's one of the reasons I like St. Louis.

Malaika Horne: Me, too.

William Fischetti: So what are your plans for...do you have programs that you plan for the future?

Malaika Horne: Well, I didn't mention...

William Fischetti: Something you'd like to get done?

Malaika Horne: I didn't mention Life-Long Learning at UMSL which I started last year and we had our lunch in April of last year and then we had our first program in November on human trafficking and a lot of people urged me not to do it but I was sitting and listening to NPR before I came over here and they were talking about the human trafficking issue in Nigeria and I was like, "Hey, you got to be ahead of the curve. You can't be afraid to tackle certain issues" but this particular program is for older adults and I wanted to distinguish it from Washington University and St. Louis University where it's more, how to write a novel or classical music and those kind of things. So in reading Robert Putnam's book, *Bowling Alone* and other literature on...Andrew (Gogian?) which is really the Academic Foundation for Life-Long Learning, I found out that older adults, particularly women, are more inclined to be civically engaged so one of the things that we did in designing the program...because I interviewed about 20 people, including Blanche Touhill, to get her ideas on what she thought the program, how it should be structured. The purpose of Life-Long Learning is a love of learning and civic engagement so once I invite these...last year in November when we had the program symposium in human trafficking,

we had all kinds of agency people that work in the area, right here in St. Louis. I learned a lot from the ones that deal with the hotel issues which I didn't know about and coalition of most of the programs that deal with the issue, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri deals with the issue, and then the people who are not involved, the older adults, at the end we matched them and asked them to exchange cards and see if you could get more involved and volunteer or just read more about it or whatever. Then, in March of this year, funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health, we had a program on health insurance literacy right before the enrollment. So that was good and people were a little nervous about that but nothing happened. Nobody gave me 50 lashes and I didn't go to jail and I must say that the human trafficking and some of the other programs here have been really generously supported by the Zonta Club of St. Louis which is an organization that's almost 100 years old here in St. Louis that helps to advance the status of women.

William Fischetti: What's the name of the club?

Malaika Horne: Zonta, Z-o-n-t-a, yeah, so it's a group of women who work very hard to support programs that support women.

William Fischetti: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

Malaika Horne: Well, I thought Blanche said something about the women's movement so I just thought...

William Fischetti: Fine.

Malaika Horne: A question about the women's movement, is there anything you want me to say about that?

William Fischetti: I don't know, just whatever comes to mind.

Malaika Horne: A lot of times, as an African American woman, I think that the gender issue supersedes the race issue because we sometimes are triply oppressed with race, gender and class and that we're so instrumental, like other women, in raising our children and hearth and home and family that it's very important to support the issues that we're confronted with, particularly the pay gap. That's my take on that.

William Fischetti: Obviously the pay gap is less than it used to be but it still exists.

Malaika Horne: I've heard 77 cents to a man's dollar where, if you're in the same place doing the same work with a similar amount of experience and preparation, you're still going to be paid less or at the press club dinner, when...who was the man who was the comedian this year? I can't remember his name, McHale or something?

William Fischetti: Joe McHale?

Malaika Horne: Joe McHale was endorsing Hillary Clinton because "we can pay her 30% less."

William Fischetti: That's pretty funny. Well, I'd like to thank you for sitting down with us and, like I said, we're going to make a copy of this and send it to you and you can sit down with your family and watch it, decide if there's anything you said you didn't want to say.

Malaika Horne: You know, I'm pretty...

William Fischetti: Okay. We are going to have you sign a release.

Malaika Horne: Yeah, I'm pretty fine with it.