

Anissa McLendon

Tape Log

Narrator: Anissa McLendon

Interviewer: Renna Voss

Interview Date: October 11, 2024

Location: Marian Cheek Jackson Center

Length: Total: 01:05:10

Interview Processor: Maddy Van Husen

Comments: Everything is paraphrased unless in quotation marks

TAPE LOG

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
0:00	Introductions
0:56	Anissa talks about her life in Chapel Hill and her adult life in Carrboro. She moved to the Northside in her 20s. To her, Chapel Hill and Carrboro are the same towns.
2:18	Talks about how most of her career has been serving the community working in Parks and Rec, the city schools for 22.5 years, and now running an art and STEM camp for rising 6-12th graders.
4:03	Discusses experience growing up in Pine Knolls. She attended Frank Porter Graham school for 1st-3rd grade, but then was bussed to Ephesus because of the low percentage of Black students there. Talks about bussing.
6:08	Talks about how she started seeing racism in 8th grade. Before this she had more Black teachers. In 9th grade she had 2 Black teachers and had no problems receiving As. When she would submit work in the same writing style to a white teacher she would get Cs.
10:07	Went to Chapel Hill High and she was the only Black student in an advanced science class. 3 weeks into class the teacher asked why she was taking this class.
11:09	In 12th grade she only needed ¼ credit to graduate. She completed an athletic training internship at Duke.

- 12:34 Discusses the role of the Green Center/Pine Knolls Center as a place for tutoring, workshops, and participating in Chapel Hill Park and Rec. Mentions that Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins helped a lot.
- 14:03 Talks about moving to the Northside where her grandmother was living. UNC-CH was not her top choice, but her grandmother was becoming ill and she didn't want to be far from home. Talks about going to a summer program before starting school to kickstart classes, but the classes didn't prepare her for the racism and large classes at UNC.
- 16:37 Shares about a time when she went to a professor's office hours. The professor happened to be the father of a kid who she grew up going to school with and who was in her graduating class. When she knocked on the door and asked questions he said "you need to go ask a classmate." Mentions that this happened often.
- 21:07 Talks about Empowering Excellence thru Exploration (E3) camp. When working at Smith Middle School, started a dialogue with the principal about creating a safe environment in the summer for kids in middle school since there was a gap in safe spaces for them.
- 25:07 Talks about how she reaches out to STEM companies and makes connections in the community. Recognizes that not every kid needs to go to a 4-year college and wants to help prepare them to get certificates at technical jobs so they can go work for these STEM companies if they want.
- 26:13 Has had 132 kids go through camp, and has some repeaters. Talks about some kids who have gotten free rides to 4-year colleges, one who went into the Army.
- 27:30 Tells a story about a time when they went to the Sanford Pfizer plant and there was a former student there who talked to the kids.
- 29:06 Talks about the importance of exposing kids to the history of the area, specifically African-American history and African-Americans who have invented things.
- 30:18 Explains more about the set up of camp, the projects, and the guests who come in. Everything in the camp is free. Talks about going into the community for sponsors and volunteers.
- 35:25 Shares a story about a parent seeing a Black history book that a kid brought home from and learning things herself. The mom thanked the camp for the book.
- 37:21 Talks about bringing the Chapel Hill Nine in. One of the campers saw his grandfather at the door to present but didn't know that he was a part of the Chapel Hill Nine.

- 39:09 On the first day of camp, there is an activity where kids go through all of the known inventions of African Americans and talk about how much they use those inventions in their daily lives.
- 41:04 Talks about the importance of messages in books. Has done a lot of activities teaching the kids about slavery and how everything was built by enslaved people.
- 45:55 When they have difficult visits to places like Stagville, she tries to follow it up with something more positive. One time they visited a Black-owned Chick-fil-a and the owner talked about how they can own a business and get scholarships. Talks about the importance of learning history, but also focusing on the now. "You can be here."
- 48:02 Talks about how racism is still present in our lifetime. Shares about the car breaking down in Fuquay Varina, which is a place she was always told to never stop in, when she was 7 or 8 years old. Didn't stop in the town again until she was 33 or 34.
- 51:41 Says that Carrboro needs to talk about its history more. Shares a story about learning the history of a house in Carrboro owned by Mr. Cole who was an enslaved person who bought his freedom.
- 53:55 Talks about the Black business that used to be in downtown Carrboro. "Why aren't we talking about the Black history?"
- 55:53 Shares how she comes from a family of people who are always active and how that has led to her being active. There is always something.
- 58:08 Talks about how granny was a missionary and their Sundays were always busy helping people. Mother was very involved in voting and voter registration. Anissa herself started tutoring at a young age.
- 59:51 Lists all of the other activities she has been a part of.
- 1:01:33 Shares how camp is trying to do something every month. Additionally, she tries to go to kids' events and support them. Talks about the importance of having a few good people who support you.