

## **Interview with Cynthia Denise Brown by Bridgette Burge**

*Preface and Index*

(Page indicates only the first time the name or word appears in the transcript)

### **Interviewee**

Cynthia Denise Brown

### **Interviewer**

Bridgette Burge

### **Interview Dates**

February 20, 2006; March 1, 2006; March 7, 2006

### **Transcription**

Emily Baran

### **Place**

February 20 interview was conducted at the Durham Public Library on Roxboro. Part of the March 1 interview was conducted at Third Space Studio in Durham, North Carolina. The March 7 interview was conducted at Cynthia's house at 1920 Ward Ave, Durham, NC 27707.

### **Collection**

Heirs to a Fighting Tradition: Oral Histories of North Carolina Social Justice Activists

### **Heirs to a Fighting Tradition**

Heirs to a Fighting Tradition: Oral Histories of North Carolina Social Justice Activists is a multi-phased oral history project which explores the stories and traditions of social justice activism in North Carolina through in-depth interviews with highly respected activists and organizers. Selected for the integrity and high level of skill in their work dedicated to social justice, the interviewees represent a diversity of age, gender, and ethnicity. These narratives capture the richness of a set of activists with powerful perspectives on social justice and similar visions of the common good. These are tales of transition and transformation, sea change and burnout, organizing successes and heart wrenching defeats. These are the stories of the Movement. This collection will be a valuable addition to the modest amount of literature about contemporary social justice activism in the South.

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### **Description of the Interviewee**

Cynthia Brown is the principal consultant of The Sojourner Group, a business she founded to help non-profit groups strengthen their leadership and address their organizational development issues. She also is a grassroots organizer and leader, former Durham City Councilwoman and a 2002 candidate for the United States Senate. A native of Reidsville,

North Carolina, she has an undergraduate degree in political science from Bennett College for Women and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a W.K. Kellogg National Fellow, Brown studied cultural, racial and economic justice issues in Australia, Brazil, Guatemala, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Egypt, New Zealand and Chile. Brown's many organizational affiliations include the N.C. Coalition on Black and Brown Civic Participation, of which she is a founding member, the Latino Community Development Center, the N.C. Conservation Network, Democracy NC and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

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### Cynthia Brown

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compiled December 2008 by Bridgette Burge

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