

# Basic Detail Report

## **Title Interview with ConnCAT Participants**

Date 2022 October 25

Primary Maker Alberta Witherspoon

Medium born digital audio file

Description Interview with five participants at ConnCAT (Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology): Alberta Witherspoon, Bettie Staton, Devin James, India Kellman, and Orlando Yarborough. Interviewed by Samariya Smith on October 25, 2022 at ConnCAT, 4 Science Park, New Haven, Connecticut. They were interviewed as part of the Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project discussing their experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This interview was a public presentation at ConnCAT. Each participant spoke individually about their experience during COVID and audience members asked questions. Orlando Yarborough is a pastor, he is self-employed, he works in education, and he is trained in bio-medical research. He spoke about how the pandemic impacted his decision making. It complicated the decisions he had to make because his choices impacted other people. Many of his decisions were based on whether or not something would be recoverable in the future if it was given up during COVID. Bettie Staton is retired and led a very active life prior to the pandemic. She missed seeing her son and granddaughter for eight months and found the pandemic to be a very lonely experience. Zoom helped relieve the loneliness. She called the vaccine “a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.” India Kellman is a college student. Prior to the pandemic she spent much of her

# Basic Detail Report

time taking care of her mother, who had breast cancer. During the pandemic,

India was not allowed to accompany her mother into doctors appointments,

which made caring for her more difficult. Her mother died during COVID, but

India was grateful for the extra time she got to spend with her mother. Alberta

Witherspoon was Housing Commissioner in New Haven at the time of the

interview. She also helps out at church and a food bank, as well as fills many

other human service-related roles in her community. Alberta describes

Thanksgiving of 2020. Her daughter and oldest niece died of COVID within 6

weeks of each other, and both left behind families. Alberta relied on her faith

during COVID. Devin James was a high school student at the time of the

interview. He describes his struggle with online school and thanks the teachers

and coaches that helped him through. During COVID Devin found track and field.

He hopes to receive a scholarship for track and field to pay for college. Devin

pointed out that mental health was a big issue during COVID, especially for

younger people.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 14 Minutes, 17 Seconds