



Transcript Audio Episode 1 – Be Your Part – With Phil Wilson
Audio transcript

Full audio: <https://www.onearchives.org/transcript-audio-episode-1-be-your-part-phil-wilson/>

Speaker 1 [00:20](#)

This is Transpork Radio, a project by ONE Archives Foundation with generous support from the California Humanities.

Jay Vargas Garcia [00:33](#)

Hi, my name is Jayden Vargas Garcia and my pronouns are she, they, and I usually go by he. This is my interview with Phil Wilson, an activist and the founder of the Black AIDS Institute and personally, to me, it felt like go home to interview him. He was amiable. He was very accepting and he's very confident. And throughout this interview, it made me feel more confident and made me feel less nervous.

Phil Wilson [00:42](#)

I found myself as a 24 year old being told that he had six months to live. So, the thing that I probably would have told myself, my younger self, is you have time, use it.

Jay Vargas Garcia [01:09](#)

My purpose for this interview was to make it feel less intimidating and more just like having a conversation with a friend. I wanted to bring out the humanity and not just the statistics of the AIDS/HIV epidemic, to show you someone who lived through it, and I have today told you the story. So thank you so much and I really hope you enjoy it.

Phil Wilson [01:40](#)

Okay. My name is Phil Wilson. I am the founder of the Black AIDS Institute and the immediate past president and CEO. I currently am the vice chair on the board of the Foundation for AIDS Memorial. And I also sit on the board of teachers for AIDS.

Jay Vargas Garcia [01:59](#)

Okay, great. So, my first question is what was it like being a gay Black man with AIDS in the mid '80s? And how do you think that shaped who you are as an adult today?

Phil Wilson [02:10](#)

For me, I came out in the spring of 1980 and my entire lived experience as an adult gay or otherwise has been in the middle of the battlefield of HIV/AIDS, pandemics. Everything about my experience, every life passage, every love, every friendship, every victory, every defeat, every laughter, every tear, HIV sometimes has been in the background, sometimes center stage, but AIDS has always been there. So, my life as a gay man has consisted of a round maneuvering, being with, fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Jay Vargas Garcia [02:57](#)