

# Mellody Hobson

**Mellody Hobson Lucas** (born April 3, 1969) is an American businesswoman who is the president of Ariel Investments. She is the former chairman of DreamWorks Animation,<sup>[1]</sup> having stepped down after negotiating the acquisition of DreamWorks Animation SKG, Inc., by NBCUniversal in August, 2016. In 2017, she became the first African-American woman to head The Economic Club of Chicago.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Early life

Hobson was born in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Ogden Elementary School and later was educated at St. Ignatius College Prep high school, and subsequently attended the Princeton University graduating from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

## Career

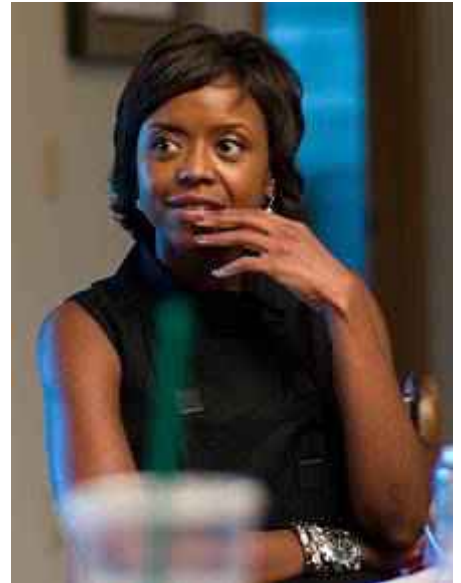
Soon after her graduation from Princeton in 1991, Hobson joined Ariel Investments as an intern and rose to become the firm's senior vice president and director of marketing. In 2000, she ascended to become the president of Ariel, a Chicago investment firm that manages over \$13 billion in assets.<sup>[3]</sup> It is also one of the largest African American-owned money management and mutual fund companies in the United States.<sup>[4]</sup>

Hobson is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ariel Investment Trust. She is a regular contributor on financial issues on CBS This Morning and a spokesperson for the annual Ariel/Schwab Black Investor Survey

Hobson serves on the board of many organizations, including JPMorgan Chase & Co, the Chicago Public Education Fund, the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and the Sundance Institute. She is also a director of the Starbucks Corporation, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. Hobson has been acclaimed in selections such as Time's 2015 Time 100 List, the magazine's annual list of the one hundred most influential people in the world).<sup>[5]</sup> Ebony magazine's "20 Leaders of the Future" (1992), Working Women Magazine's "20 Under 30" (1992), the World Economic Forum's "Global Leaders of Tomorrow" (2001), Esquire's "America's Best and Brightest" (2002), The Wall Street Journal's 50 "Women to Watch" (2004).<sup>[6]</sup>

Hobson created and hosted a show on ABC on May 29, 2009, called *Unbroke: What You Need to Know About Money*, featuring celebrities such as the Jonas Brothers, Oscar the Grouch and Samuel L. Jackson.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Mellody Hobson



Hobson in 2012

|                                  |                                                  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Born</b>                      | April 3, 1969 <div>Chicago, Illinois, U.S.</div> |
| <b>Alma<span> </span>mater</b>   | Princeton University (B.A.)                      |
| <b>Occupation</b>                | Financial/Investment Management Executive        |
| <b>Years<span> </span>active</b> | 1991–present                                     |
| <b>Spouse(s)</b>                 | George Lucas (m. <span> </span> 2013)            |
| <b>Children</b>                  | 1                                                |

Actress Vanessa L. Williams based her character, self-made businesswoman Courtney Paige (in the American television drama, *The Good Wife*), on Hobson, studying her via Hobson's STED talks.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2017, Hobson was named to head the Economic Club of Chicago, the first African-American woman to do so.<sup>[9]</sup>

On August 6, 2017 Hobson guest hosted CBS Sunday Morning's annual "Money Issue" episode.<sup>[10]</sup>

On June 4, 2018, Hobson was named as Vice-Chair of Starbucks Corporation.<sup>[11]</sup>

## Awards

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Mellody Hobson was inducted as a Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois and awarded the Order of Lincoln (the State's highest honor) by the Governor of Illinois in 2018.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Personal life

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Hobson began dating film director and producer George Lucas in 2006, after they met at a business conference.<sup>[13][14][15][16][17]</sup> Hobson and Lucas announced their engagement in January 2013,<sup>[18]</sup> and were married on June 22, 2013, at Lucas' Skywalker Ranch.<sup>[19]</sup> They have one daughter together Everest Hobson Lucas, who was born via surrogacy in August 2013.<sup>[20]</sup>

Hobson was photographed by Annie Leibovitz for the 2016 Pirelli Calendar.<sup>[21]</sup>

She recently appeared on the Jack Good Show in August 2017, where she accepted the City of Birmingham's deepest appreciation for her charitable work with Birmingham's Bright Leaders of Tomorrow.<sup>[22]</sup>


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## External links

- [Mellody Hobson](#)
- [Mellody Hobson at TED](#) 

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