



NEWS

BMRC 10th Anniversary | Internship Program | Fellowship Program

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BMRC's 10th Anniversary

Current members, colleagues, and former Fellows gathered on the evening of October 15, 2015 at Columbia College Chicago's Library to celebrate the BMRC's 10th Anniversary Kick-Off event. The guests heard from speakers Erik Gellman, Vice Chairperson of the BMRC Board; Camille Ann Brewer, BMRC Executive Director; Dino Robinson, BMRC Board Member and Founder and Director of Shorefront Legacy Center; Lionel Kimble, PhD, Department of History at Chicago State University; and Valerie Gerrard Browne, retired archivist and widow of Archie Motley. Mr. Robinson spoke about the important work that the BMRC helps facilitate for "Second Space" collections outside of academic institutions. Dr. Kimble spoke about how the BMRC fulfills the needs of dedicated researchers. Ms. Browne spoke about the future need of a diverse field of activists and study. Musical accompaniment was provided by 2010 Fellow Geoff Bradfield and his jazz trio.

BMRC Member Institutions

- Bronzeville Historical Society, Chicago
- Columbia College, Center for Black Music Research
- Chicago History Museum, Research Center
- Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center and Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection
- Chicago State University, Archives & Special Collections
- Dominican University, Rebecca Crown Library, Archives & Special Collection
- Illinois Institute of Technology, Archives and Paul V. Galvin Library
- Loyola University of Chicago Archives
- Northwestern University, Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections and Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies
- Roosevelt University Archives
- Shorefront Legacy Center
- University of Chicago, Special Collections Research Center
- University of Illinois, Library of Health Sciences, Chicago Special Collections & University Archives, Richard J. Daley Library, Special Collections & University Archives

Archie Motley Internship Program

In January 2016, the BMRC will launch the Archie Motley Archival Internship Program. The Program is designed to provide paid internships for students of color enrolled in graduate-level archival management programs and/or programs in the humanities enrolled at BMRC academic member institutions. We envision this internship program as a vehicle providing valuable professional development opportunities for students to better reflect the society in which we live and work.

The Archie Motley Archival Internship Program will provide stipends each fall and spring semester to students of color to provide practical employment experience as a cultural heritage professionals working in BMRC member institutions.

Mr. Motley (1935-2002) was a gentle crusader whose collection of off-beat papers and manuscripts enabled the Chicago Historical Society to build an extraordinary collection of document about the lives of black people, labor leaders, and social workers.

Applications for the Spring 2016 Archie Motley Archival Internship Program will be accepted beginning November 15, 2015 at <http://bmrc.lib.uchicago.edu/projects/fellowship-program-information/2016-2/>.

The application deadline is Friday, January 15, 2016. Awardees will be notified by February 1, 2016.

About the BMRC

The BMRC is an unincorporated Chicago-based membership association of libraries, universities, and other archival institutions, which contain holdings of materials that document African American and African diasporic culture, history, and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicago. The University of Chicago serves as the host institution of the BMRC and acts as the BMRC's fiscal agent.

Executive Director's Letter

Beginning the BMRC's 10th year...

The BMRC was initiated in the spring of 2006 at a meeting of chief executives from 15 Chicago-area institutions. Dr. Danielle Allen, then serving as Dean of the Humanities at the University of Chicago, convened the meeting to discuss forms of collaboration that might support African American studies in the Chicago area. After a year of consortium construction and governance development, the BMRC was launched on July 1, 2006, with the appointment of its first Steering Committee and the election of its first board of directors.

Over the last 10 years, the Consortium has completed two major archival management projects: the Survey Initiative and the Color Curtain Processing Project. The BMRC believes that web-based research tools provide an excellent opportunity for broadening access to unique primary source materials held in its members' collections.

Through my participation in the ASALH centennial celebrations both in Chicago and Atlanta, it became clear that the organization holds a unique position in the nation for providing a gateway for researchers and scholars to access materials for them to generate new, original scholarship on African American life, history, and culture.

As we embark on our 10th year, the BMRC is initiating a new program to provide paid internship opportunities for library science students to learn archival processing and management. The BMRC has also launched a new website this fall, which will soon feature a searchable database of collections processed through our grant funded programs. We are happy to welcome two new members of the Board, elected during the Annual Meeting: Steven Adams, Life Sciences Librarian and Psychology Liaison from Northwestern University and Julie Wroblewski, Archivist in Archives and Manuscripts at the Chicago History Museum.

For this coming anniversary year, we are organizing a series of fun(d)raisers to generate interest in BMRC projects and the resources to support the programs. Please stay tuned to upcoming events on the BMRC's website calendar and social media outlets.

Kudos & Thank You

Congratulations to the Chicago Collections Consortium for the launch of EXPLORE Chicago Collections, a digital portal of Chicago-based archival collections. Drawing information from disparate sources, the portal is a great one-stop resource for all types of researchers needing information about primary source materials focused on Chicago's history. <http://explore.chicagocollections.org/>

Congratulations to BMRC founder Dr. Danielle Allen recipient of the Chicago Tribune's 2015 Literary and Heartland Award.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to work at the BMRC's 10th Anniversary Party and to Nicole Waddington for the new logo and photographs from the party! Your help and generous support is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to BMRC Board Member Aaisha Haykal from Chicago State University Archives and Special Collections for accepting the Society of American Archivists Preservation Publication Award.

BMRC 10th Anniversary Celebration



BMRC Executive Director Camille Ann Brewer cuts the 10th Anniversary cake to be served to the many guests who attended the celebration and program.

Party attendees listen intently to the speakers of the program and their thoughts on the importance of an organization such as the BMRC.



BMRC Board Member Glenn Humphreys converses with a colleague during the party.

Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program



The 2015 Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program wrapped up with an event at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago on August 7, 2015 with an opening reception, film screening, and artist talk featuring Fellow Carlos Javier Ortiz and his work. More than 60 people from the local community attended this collaborative program that focused on the Great Migration and its exploration of Chicago as an American city indelibly shaped by this historic event. Ortiz documents the physical spaces, neighborhoods, and people who inhabit them to tell the story of Chicago's

2016 Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program

Through an international competition, the BMRC offers 1-month residential fellowships in the City of Chicago for its Summer Short-term Fellowship Program. Generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Summer Short-term Fellowship Program has engaged scholars, artists, writers, and public historians from the United States and Europe to better formulate new historical narratives of Chicago's past. The **new, original** research and art developed through this program is significant as it illuminates the national and international importance of Chicago's African American community, its history, and primary source documents.

The BMRC introduced a new cohort model in 2015 in which scholars, researchers, and artists will be selected based on their work in broad, yet defined, subject areas. This subject-area cohort model will enable BMRC staff and member institutions to concentrate their support efforts in focused subject areas. The subject areas slated for 2016 are: **Politics; Medical Arts and Public Health.**

2016 marks the final year of President Barack Obama's tenure in the White House. The City of Chicago's political matrix, grassroots organizing, and rich political histories provided the foundation and context for Mr. Obama's rise to Illinois State Senator, US Senator and the President of the United States. The BMRC will solicit research proposals that address the political history of the Black Metropolis.

In 1891, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams started Provident Hospital and a training school for nurses to serve the health needs of the African American citizens in Chicago. Provident Hospital was the first Black-owned and operated hospital in the United States. Today, the University of Illinois College of Medicine, the largest medical school in the United States,

continues to matriculate large numbers of African American students through its programs. Given the importance of this 125-year history in both medical education of African American healthcare providers and delivery of healthcare to African American communities in Chicago, the BMRC will select research proposals that investigate the many facets of the medical arts as they pertain to the lives of African Americans and public health issues in their communities.

Each Fellowship consists of \$4000 during the 4-week summer fellowship period.

Applications will be accepted starting November 15, 2015 at <http://bmrc.lib.uchicago.edu/projects/fellowship-program-information/2016-2/>

The application deadline is Friday, January 15, 2016. Awardees will be notified by February 28, 2016.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History One-Hundredth Anniversary Celebration - September 2015 in Chicago and Atlanta

On September 9, 2015, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Dr. George Cleveland Hall, W.B. Hartgrove, J.E. Stamps, and A. L. Jackson at the Wabash YMCA. In honor of ASALH's Centennial celebration, the BMRC participated in celebration events both in Chicago and Atlanta.

The Chicago ASALH Branch hosted a series of events locally from September 9-12, including the laying of a historic plaque to honor ASALH's founding at the Wabash YMCA and programs and receptions at the Hall Branch Library, the Woodson Regional Library, Chicago State University, and the DuSable Museum.

The ASALH Centennial Annual Meeting and Conference was held on September 23-27 in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, and had the highest number of meeting attendees in the history of the organization. Chicagoland was well represented on panels and the conference planning committees with representatives from many BMRC academic member institutions.

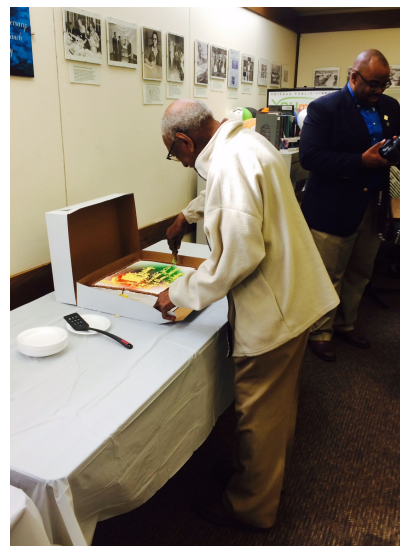
Conference attendees were excited to learn more about BMRC programs and felt that the organization provided valuable resources nationally for historians developing new scholarship in African American history and for emerging library and information professionals to gain the on-the-job training to begin their archival careers. We look forward to upcoming ASALH programs and events here in Chicago and at the national level.

ASALH Events in Chicago and Atlanta



Aisha Haykal, along with Glenda Alvin and Rachel Kelly, received a gift acknowledgement from Johnnieque B. Love on their hard work on the website for the ASALH affiliate group, Information Professionals. (<https://asalhip.wordpress.com/>)

Timuel Black cutting the ASALH birthday cake at George Cleveland Hall branch of the CPL, September 9, 2015.



BMRC Board Member Aisha Haykal chaired an excellent panel in Atlanta, Preserving the Beats: Collection Hip Hop and House Music, on the methods of appraisal, collecting, and arranging collections of material related to Hip Hop and House Music history, culture and life with Chicago area institutions and personalities represented on the panel including Timothy Anne Burnside, Andrea Jackson, Chianti Dorsey, Lauren G. Lowery, and Jesse Saunders.



Pullman State Historic Site - Soundscape

Organized by the Borderbend Collective, the BMRC participated in a soundscape program held at the Pullman State Historic Site in early October. Through a group walk across the historic site, participants recorded ambient sounds in the area. After the walk, a program was held featuring re-mixed urban sound recordings by Chicago Phonography while spoken word presenters read passages by or about the Pullman Porters over the re-mixed soundscape. The program was moving and brought an interesting “new life” to the space. We look forward to participating in more programming about the rich history of the site and seeing the new renovations as they come into fruition.



Chicago Phonography



University of Chicago Orientation Week - 57th & Woodlawn Block Party



On Thursday, September 24, 2015 from 3:00pm-5:00pm, BMRC staff participated in a block party of 14 organizations located on the city block of 57th Street and Woodlawn Avenue as part of the University of Chicago's Orientation Week. This event was organized by the Center for Identity + Inclusion and the Institute of Politics at the University. Over 1,000 students came to this event and several signed up for the BMRC mailing list, took brochures of BMRC member institutions, and received information on Chicago Area Archivists' Open Archives event held on October 8-10 which included several BMRC member institutions.