

BMRC NEWS

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Anita Mechler, Program Manager / Archivist



POWRR Workshop April 24, 2015

Over 20 professionals, including 15 representatives from BMRC member institutions and a participant from New Jersey, gathered to attend an informative day-long POWRR (Preserving Digital Objects With Restricted Resources) workshop. The workshop included: group work and collaboration; hands-on tutorials; an action plan tailored to each institution and its needs; and finally, a planned follow-up from the presenters to the workshop participants. All attending felt that they had learned something

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

valuable to bring back to their institutions as well as a plan for future projects. One participant stated that the workshop, “lifted the veil of mystery surrounding digital preservation”. The workshop titled “From Theory to Action: A Pragmatic Approach to Digital Preservation Strategies and Tools” was made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Celebrating 50 Years of Experience.

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium would like to thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for generously supporting an additional three-year cycle of funding for the Summer Short-term Fellowship Program. With this round of funding, the BMRC has introduced a new cohort model in which scholars, researchers, and artists are selected based on their work in broad, yet defined, subject areas. For summer 2015, the Fellows will focus their research on the Great Migration and Journalism. We believe this approach will foster lasting ties and relationships between Fellows and provide the broader community with an opportunity to take in thematic public presentations on Chicago’s history.



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Executive Director's Letter

Welcome to the new BMRC quarterly newsletter! We are excited to share news and upcoming events with our members and other stakeholders. The BMRC is in the midst of new and exciting developments. The reconstituted Board of Directors is engaged and actively involved in seeing the BMRC grow and thrive. The Office of Provost at the University of Chicago has made clear their intentions for supporting the rejuvenation of the organization and its relationship with other BMRC member institutions across the city. University of Chicago Professor Jacqueline Stewart has graciously agreed to serve as the BMRC's faculty advisor and she will also serve as Chairperson for the BMRC's newly formed Faculty Advisory Committee.

Over the past six months, I have personally visited each one of the BMRC member institutions to take an assessment of how the BMRC can support the work and programming for our members. The consistent answer to my queries was that our members need more support for collection processing. With this in mind, I plan to develop programs over the next 6-12 months to aid our members with processing projects. Please stay tuned to learn more about our upcoming processing initiatives this fall and winter 2016.

This year promises to be rich in programming and events about African American life, history, and culture with 2015 marking the centennial anniversary of the start of the Great Migration. Seven Fellows in the Mellon Foundation-funded Summer Short-term Fellowship Program will conduct research on different facets of the Great Migration and their work will be featured in several public presentations this summer. Dates and time for those events will be highlighted on the BMRC's social media outlets.

Please take a moment to look through the newsletter to learn more about the new and exciting programming happening here at the BMRC. You are welcome to contact the BMRC at bmrc@uchicago.edu or call at 773-702-0653.

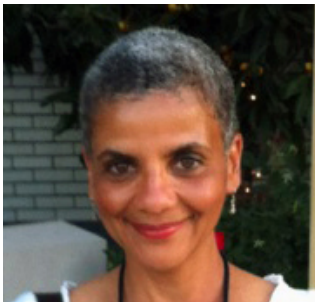
Welcome Anita Mechler, new Project Manager / Archivist to BMRC

Anita Mechler is the newest addition to the BMRC staff as of April 2015. She received her MLIS from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a certification in Rare Books and Manuscripts in 2008. Most recently, she worked at the Union League Club of Chicago as the Director of the Library and Archives. We are excited to have Anita join the team at the BMRC and she has already shown her expertise in organizing and facilitating the Fellowship Program. She looks forward to working with all the members of the consortium as well as the fellows and future interns on all projects.

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.

2015 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows!



Diane Jones Allen, an Instructor at the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, College of Art and Design at Louisiana State University will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "Transit Deserts: Neighborhood Form, Transportation Access, and Forced Migration" from June 1-31.



Jennifer Scism Ash, a PhD Candidate in History, Gender, and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois in Chicago, will be working on a topic related to Journalism, Writing, and Publishing titled, "HBCU Queens, Journalists, and Black Freedom: The Gendered Politics Behind the Publication and Content of Chicago's Ebony Magazines, 1955-1980s" from May 11-June 5.



Jessica Auer, a PhD Candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "Chasing Freedom, Finding Work: Gender, Mobility, and Labor in Postwar Chicago" during the month of June.



Kim Bobier, a PhD Candidate in Art History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will be working on a topic related to Journalism, Writing, and Publishing titled, "Mediating the Civil Rights Movement: Kerry James Marshall's Souvenir Paintings & Chicago Journalism" from July 6-31.

2015 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows!



Neil Clarke, an adjunct professor in the Department of Music at the City College of New York will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "Rethinking the Presence of the African Drum in North America" from June 15-July 14.



Samuel Edward Gale, a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison will be working on a topic related to Journalism, Writing, and Publishing titled, "It's a Press Victory: The African American Press' Coverage of Black Sports and the Struggle for Racial Equality" from June 1-July 31.



Kim Gallon, an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Purdue University will be working on a topic related to Journalism, Writing, and Publishing titled, "The Chicago Defender's Standing Dealers List Map" starting on July 6.



Katrina Greene, a PhD Candidate in Art History at the University of Delaware will be working on a project titled "From the American Art Colony in France to Bronzeville: The Transnational, Multi-media Mentorship of William Edouard Scott under Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1910-1930" from June 2-July 1.



Megan Rigsby Klein, a PhD Candidate at Loyola University Chicago will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "The Irony of Integration: Race, Politics, and the Disintegration of a Constructed Community" starting on June 10.

2015 Fellowship Program: Meet Our Fellows!



Kevin Loughran, a PhD Candidate in Sociology at Northwestern University will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "The Great Migration, Public Space, and American Cities, 1940-70" from Mid-June to August.



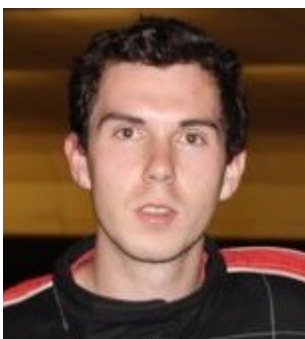
Anita Mixon, is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Communication and is a Gender and Women's Studies Graduate Minor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "Rupturing the Boundaries of the Public and Private Spheres: Urban Activism in Bronzeville, 1919-1939" from June 1-30.



Amani Morrison, is a PhD Candidate in the African Diaspora Studies Program at the University of California at Berkeley and she will be working on a topic related to The Great Migration titled, "Constructing Selfhood, Remaking Home: Black Aspirational Identities and Chicago's Great Migration" from May 31-June 30.



Carlos Javier Ortiz, is a documentary photographer and visual artist and he will be working on a visual study related to The Great Migration titled, "From Mississippi to Aunt May's Place: The Great Migration Then and Now".



James West, is a PhD Candidate in English and American Studies at the University of Manchester in England and he will be working on a topic related to Journalism, Writing, and Publishing titled, "Listen to the Blood: Ebony Magazine and the Making and Selling of Modern Black History".