



NEWS

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Covid-19 and African American Collections

This year the BMRC held its Annual Meeting unlike any before - virtually. The Annual Meeting is typically a time for those in the BMRC's network to come together as a community and learn more about the consortium's past and future initiatives. The Annual Meeting has served as a space where connections between BMRC staff, Board members, representatives from member institutions, researchers and supporters of Black archives, history and culture are made and rediscovered. The global Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from sharing a physical space this year, but it did not prevent us from engaging in dialogue on the importance of Black collections. A stellar panel of archivists and stewards of African American collections – Raquel Flores-Clemons, Charla Wilson, Dino Robinson, Beth Loch and Shaneé Murrain, shared important insights and strategies on navigating Covid-19's impact on African American collections.

Humanizing the Impact of Covid-19

Raquel Flores-Clemons, University Archivist at Chicago State University and BMRC Board Vice Chair, spoke on the need for institutions to consider the human impact of the pandemic and protests against racism and police brutality, and to engage in ethical practices of collecting community narratives. As a public institution that primarily serves Black students and the Black community of Roseland in which it presides, Chicago State's collections and programming reflect a rich tradition of Black creativity. Flores-Clemons plans to increase virtual programming this fall, including programming that engages the connections between archival collections, creative work and Black liberation.



Building and Using Campus Collections

As Archivist for the Black Experience at Northwestern University, Charla Wilson discussed efforts to collect and preserve the history and activism of Black students, faculty, staff and alumni at the university. Wilson has found potential donors of collections receptive to phone and virtual conversations and is investigating best practices for remotely recording oral histories, collecting born-digital records and documenting the experiences of faculty, students and staff during the Covid-19 pandemic and antiracist protests. In addition to fielding inquiries on the Black experience during the 1918 flu epidemic and with policing on campus, Wilson discussed working to increase remote instructional support and the creative use of African American collections in coursework.

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Engaging Community from a Distance

Morris (Dino) Robinson founded Shorefront Legacy Center to collect, preserve and educate people about the 100-year history of Blacks on Chicago's North Shore from Evanston to Lake Forest - a history that had been minimized and neglected. Archiving from the ground up, Robinson explained that Shorefront is an entirely volunteer run organization. From the unveiling of Shorefront Voice, a digital collection of oral histories of Black North Shore residents, to documenting protests against police brutality to providing archival evidence to support Evanston's reparations program, Shorefront is using the Covid-19 pandemic to continue to engage the local community, though at a distance.

Meeting Obstacles and Opportunities

As the largest archive of Black materials in the Midwest, the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection has a history and practice of providing archival access to everyone. The Covid-19 pandemic has altered that history and practice. Beth Loch, an archivist at the Harsh, spoke in detail about the collection's history, from its origins in the George Cleveland Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library to its current location in the Carter G. Woodson Regional Branch. The obstacles created by Covid-19 are many: limited access to the archives for patrons and staff, no pick-ups of donated collections, cancelled programs and

no volunteers or interns. But Loch also spoke to opportunities created by the pandemic, namely time to process and digitize collections, plan an upcoming exhibit on the Chicago Black Renaissance and engage in professional development.

Walking the Talk as a National Digital Public Library

Shanéé Murrain, Community Engagement Manager for Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), discussed how DPLA's mission to increase access to information and adoption of an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Social Justice (IDEAS) strategy have become even more salient during the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of the IDEAS strategy, adopted in 2019, DPLA has committed itself to uplifting new voices and increased partnerships with HBCU's and African American research centers, most notably on the creation of a National Black Women's Suffrage Digital Collection. Murrain also spoke to DPLA's efforts to serve as a digital repository for community stories of Covid-19 and taking the time to build organic relationships that consider the capacity and needs of community partners. Murrain cautioned that the work of documenting the pandemic will be ongoing and that we can all afford to be graceful in collecting and telling community stories of Covid-19.

A recording of the Annual Meeting is available through the BMRC's website.

About the BMRC

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) is a Chicago-based membership association of libraries, universities, museums, community/arts organizations and other archival institutions. The BMRC's mission is to connect all who seek to document, share, understand and preserve Black experiences.

It is the vision of the BMRC to be essential to promoting discovery, preservation, and use of Black historical collections. Through consortial programs, the BMRC aids in expanding broad access to its members' holdings of materials that document African American and African diasporic culture, history, and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicago.

Connect with us

Website: bmrc.lib.uchicago.edu

Email: bmrc@uchicago.edu



Facebook: @IBMRC



Twitter: @ChicagoBMRC



Instagram: [black_metropolis](https://www.instagram.com/black_metropolis)

Executive Director's Note

*Marcia Walker-McWilliams
having a laugh at the 2019
BMRC Annual Meeting*
Photo credit: Beth Rooney



Dear friends,

September 6, 2020 will mark the one-year anniversary of my tenure as Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium. And what a year it has been!

My first foray into Chicago's Black collections was as a graduate intern with the Mapping the Stacks Project, an archival processing initiative at the University of Chicago that closely aligned with the BMRC's mission, survey and processing projects. It was in the archives of the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection between 2008 and 2011, that I came to appreciate the rich and complex narratives that tell the story of Black life in Chicago. It was that experience, as well as coursework and research that allowed me to contribute to a growing cannon of scholarship on Black Chicago. I am so grateful that my role as BMRC Executive Director is to support and highlight Black collections and the work of archivists, librarians, researchers, artists, educators and organizations who create, care for and engage these collections.

This biannual issue of the *BMRC News* opened with a synopsis of a great 2020 Annual Meeting headlined by a fantastic panel of archivists from BMRC member institutions and the Digital Public Library of America. The BMRC's Mellon Presidential Grant is also featured in this edition of the newsletter, along with insight into our new staff members, Summer Short-term Fellows projects and the Archie Motley Archival Internship Program.

The challenge of working remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic has altered, but not slowed our work. Please continue to visit our website, follow us on social media and sign up for our monthly e-news bulletin to learn about upcoming programs and initiatives of the BMRC.

Stay well. Stay safe. Stay engaged.

Marcia Walker-McWilliams

Documenting Black Chicago Through Technology, Sustainability and Outreach

Work begins on Mellon Presidential Grant



Community members and representatives from BMRC member institutions at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Photo Credit: Beth Rooney.

In 2019, the BMRC was awarded a three-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support two initiatives to advance the mission and goals of consortium: 1) A Collection Portal Sustainability/ Enhancement Project to review, update and transform the BMRC collections database into a sustainable, modern gateway for black history research, and 2) A Community Legacy Management Project to develop educational resources and public programming that educates future donors and archivists so that legacy collections can be better saved for posterity.

The BMRC is focusing on ways we can strengthen our current activities as well as pursue innovative paths in order to fulfill our vision of being essential to promoting discovery, preservation, and use of Black historical collections. Both projects comprise important building blocks for accomplishing that vision and represent strategic investment in the understanding and appreciation of the Black experience.

We welcome new team members who will lead these projects: Portal Archivist, Laurie Lee Moses and Community Engagement Archivist, Tanya Calvin.

Mellon Grant Objectives

- Redesign of the BMRC's Searchable Database
- Digital Exhibit of BMRC Member Collections
- Legacy Management Resource Portal on the BMRC website
- Community Engagement Workshops for potential donors and stewards of Black collections
- Collection diversification workshop for BMRC Member Institutions



In addition to updating the finding aids from past BMRC survey and processing projects and incorporating new collection records from member institutions, the redesign of the BMRC's Searchable Database will consolidate collection records from the Mapping the Stacks Project and Uncovering Chicago Archives Project (UNCAP).

Q&A with the BMRC's Newest Staff

Meet Tanya Calvin, BMRC Community Engagement Archivist

What about the BMRC's work resonates with you?

When I was in undergrad, working at my college's archives and special collections, I was always trying to connect my work there with my studies. As a Black Studies major, I often looked for materials about abolitionists, civil rights activists, and important figures of the Black community at the college. After finishing school and moving back home, I wanted to engage in a similar combination of Black archives in Chicago. I heard of the BMRC through one of my summer internships and remember being instantly interested. I felt connected to that drive to make connections between Black collections across the city. I'm thrilled to be a part of the team so I can help push forward the BMRC's mission of bringing together everyone who is archiving Black experiences in Chicago. The first project I'm working on is directly related to this – the Legacy Management Resource Portal. I've put together a resource for people interested in either donating their materials to a professional repository or housing their own collections with their family, community, or organization. We want to encourage folks to preserve their collections instead of just discarding them. I hope that the resource portal will be useful to those who currently own or are creating materials that tell the histories of Black people who contributed or are contributing to their communities.



What did your first or most interesting interaction with a Black collection spark in your mind?

I worked on a rehousing project of the Marshall Bloom Alternative Press Collection, donated by Marshall Bloom, an alum of Amherst College who co-founded the Liberation News Service. The collection has over 3,000 alternative newspapers and magazines from the 1960s through the 1990s. Included in the collection is a near-full run of the Black Panther Newspapers. I had just taken a class on the Black Panther Party, so I was thrilled to be put on the project. I remember going through each one of those newspapers, reading the poetry and articles that were inside, and feeling truly connected to the radical elders and ancestors who paved the way for future movements, like the Black Lives Matter movement. Newspapers now hold a special place in my archivist heart as one of my favorite ways to document and share Black stories. Since so much press is online these days, I appreciate physical newspapers and magazines that much more, especially those as dynamic, informative, and inspiring as the Black Panther Newspapers.

What's your "go to" way to refresh and renew your mind and well-being?

I started taking my spiritual practices seriously a couple of years ago and doing so has really helped me ground myself and move forward without burning out. I have an ancestor altar that I put together with my sister's help, and I try to sit at it every day to meditate or pray. It's also helped me set intentions and goals for myself, and it's especially helpful to take the time out of the day or week to just name what I'm grateful for. When I first set up the altar, I felt like I had no idea what I was doing, but now that I've had it up for several years it feels essential to my daily life. It brings me peace and stability – I encourage anyone looking for guidance to set one up for themselves, in accordance with whichever religion you believe in!

Q&A with the BMRC's Newest Staff

Meet Laurie Lee Moses, BMRC Portal Archivist

What about the BMRC's work resonates with you?

When I was a new archivist, I learned about the collections at the Center for Black Music Research—and was amazed at the sheer span and complexity of the world of Black music over the centuries. Oh, the stories! I discovered organizations, people, composers, musicologists, and historians previously unknown to me. I've been a musician my whole life, discovering the practices and traditions of world music, jazz, soul, and other genres, and branching out to explore African-American history and writing. However, when I arrived at the CBMR, I could immerse myself in the music and the history in a wholly different way—I could actually see, hear, and examine real letters, handwritten notes, photographs, musical scores, recordings, sheet music and oral histories, and much more. Holding history in my hands opened my eyes still wider to the rich kaleidoscope of the legacy of the global African diaspora, from hundreds of years ago to yesterday. The archives document the creative work and lives of people important to many or perhaps to just a few, yet all had power and impact on the work and lives of those to come. I truly felt history come alive, bursting out of those unassuming gray boxes and energizing an interconnected network of relationships with donors, documentarians, collectors, and collaborators.



What did your first or most interesting interaction with a Black collection spark in your mind?

As a jazz aficionado, improviser, and composer since middle school, I was awestruck seeing the 44 score boxes of Melba Liston's life's work. Many are written in her own hand; I could almost hear her pencil scratching across those oversized manuscript pages. Her arrangements for big band sometimes had a player's name written on the staff instead of an instrument name, including "Diz" for Dizzy Gillespie, an icon in Black music, and she wrote arrangements for one of my all-time favorite performer/composers, Mary Lou Williams. She arranged for soul music notables like Marvin Gaye too! I stared at those scores for a good while. To imagine Melba Liston, playing trombone no less—not singing—a young African American woman being commissioned to make arrangements at that scale, and playing in bands that backed up Billie Holiday, as one example, it just blew my mind. Against all odds, emerging as a Black female horn player in the 1940s, primarily self-taught, she followed her musical heart and wrote constantly, even after suffering a stroke in the 1980s. She just learned to use computer notation software and kept going. As a woman, she was paid unfairly, had to fight for arranging jobs, and experienced many challenges in the touring life, yet she was not daunted. She made her way with music always at the center of her life, building strong and enduring relationships with her colleagues. An inspiring true s/hero for me.

What's your "go to" way to refresh and renew your mind and well-being?

When I need to refresh and renew, I turn to an expanse of sky and lake, to the sounds of birds and insects, the sight of lightning bugs flashing at dusk. Quietude at a forest preserve in a cool stand of trees by a running creek. I'm refreshed knowing that this world extends far beyond, and is so much more than, the entire human endeavor built within it. Sometimes I lose myself (and my worries) by improvising at the piano, or painting with watercolors. I love to sing in 3-part harmony with my family and laugh at silliness and bad jokes, and now, at our new dog's antics. Sharing hopes and fears with others, whether neighbors, dear friends, or different people of like minds, and gathering to protest for social justice. Hearing about the kindness of strangers in strange times finding ways to help. All give me hope and optimism, which fuels my work as a technology-loving archivist and my life as a community member, a person looking to make the world better somehow, directly, even in tiny steps, striving to embody strange kindness in small moments.

Q&A with the BMRC's Newest Staff

Meet Allison Sutton, BMRC Program Manager/Archivist

What about the BMRC's work resonates with you?

I have always been intrigued and engaged in learning about African American history. My parents exposed my siblings and I to Black history and culture primarily through the arts--music and plays. As an undergraduate, I worked as a research assistant for my Anthropology professor, helping to amass a Black Family Studies bibliography. My interest in sharing our history with others has never waned. When I was in graduate school and later became a librarian, I sought ways to stay connected to the archives through my own research and continued learning from the broader scholarly conversations in the literature and attending presentations about the African American experience across the spectrum. I collaborated with African American Studies librarians and participated in service work through various organizations. I naturally gravitated towards the work of Black Metropolis Research Consortium, eager to be involved in carrying out its mission. In my role, as Program Manager, I am very excited to work with the Fellowship and Internship programs and to focus on the educational component of our strategic plan. It is a natural fit for me based upon my skill set and experience, including recruiting others to the profession. I must add that Chicago, with its rich history, holds a special place in my heart and is entwined in the story of my own family. Oh, and I know I am in the right place with the BMRC because I think of myself as the “hype woman” for African American scholars.



What did your first or most interesting interaction with a Black collection spark in your mind?

I was in graduate school, working on a master's degree in Library & Information Science at Louisiana State University and simultaneously employed in the Special Collections & Archives unit at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. It was my first opportunity to work within an archive. My very first project was creating descriptive metadata for a collection of slave narratives, assembled in Louisiana, in the 1930s by a history professor at Southern University. The interviews were of elderly Black men and women who were slaves as children. Completely immersed in reading their words, I wiped my eyes and diligently worked to honor them. When I read their names and the stories they recalled, I felt their spirit. They were determined to share even the smallest details they could recall despite the unconscionable treatment they and their family experienced. Treatment as property rather than human beings. I was connected to these people who felt like my ancestors. I will never forget them and the heaviness of that project.

What's your "go to" way to refresh and renew your mind and well-being?

I have worked in higher education for quite some time and I remain most motivated by the students and scholars that surround me. I love training and empowering others, especially undergraduate and graduate students. Watching them grow in their ability to conduct solid research and to garner a true appreciation for primary sources and archival materials gives me hope. Scholars working with people who are as committed as you are to ensuring African American history and culture is preserved and shared is absolutely motivating. There is a certain kind of energy you get in their presence –or even across Zoom. Obviously, I am referring to my immediate colleagues. But, this is also true when I think of connections more broadly – other colleagues in the library and archives world, faculty scholars seeking to bring to light historical perspectives through their research or any member of the community who has great respect for history and is using their knowledge for the greater good is inspiring to me. On my own time, I recharge by walking, listening to music, attending festivals, watching documentaries, reading and spending time with family and friends. During the pandemic “G-Auntie” is honing her story time skills with the youngest generation of my family—on Zoom.

2020 Summer Short-term Fellows

Since 2009, the BMRC has awarded over 100 fellowships to scholars, artists, writers, and public historians to better formulate new historical narratives of Chicago's past. Fellows are awarded a 1-month residential fellowship in Chicago to conduct research in the archives of BMRC member institutions. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 Summer Short-term Fellows will be able to initiate their fellowship anytime before August 2021. All Fellows give public presentations upon the conclusion of their fellowship period. Read on to learn more about the current cohort of BMRC Fellows.

LeNie Adolphson

Doctoral Candidate, History
Northern Illinois University

Health Care in the Black Metropolis: A History of Provident Hospital

"Provident Hospital was established in 1891 by Dr. Daniel Hale Williams to serve Chicago's South Side community. Provident's founders were responding to the pervasive discrimination Black patients faced when seeking care in Chicago's hospitals...Despite its importance to Black Chicago and to U.S. history of medicine, no full-length study of Provident Hospital exists...My dissertation will be the first work of scholarship to examine post-1950s archival materials on Provident, and to analyze the hospital's impact on Chicago up to the present."



Theodore Foster

Assistant Professor, Department of History
University of Louisiana - Lafayette

Projecting Archives: The Politics of Black Chicago History, Memory and Civil Rights

"...*Projecting Archives* emphasizes how archives are themselves projects that veterans of the Long Black Freedom Struggle, such as Dr. Fannie Rushing and Sylvia Fischer, repurpose and reshape in a variety of formats such as the Chicago SNCC History Project's mission. Archives are often incomplete projections of the complexities and nuances of Black life and thus scholars, activists, archivists, civic leaders and others must tend to these gaps in creative ways."

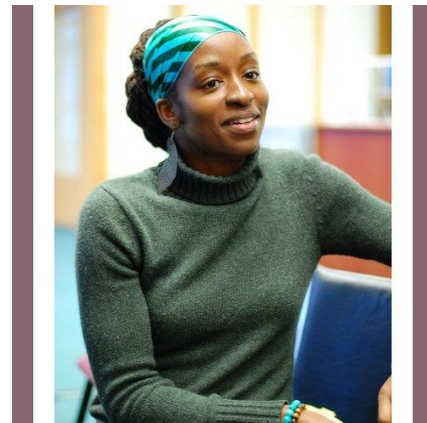


Grace Gipson

Postdoctoral Fellow, Frederick Douglass Institute of African and African American Studies
University of Rochester

Telling HER-story and Continuing a Legacy: Chicago's Black Girl Magic in Comics

"Since the inception of American comics, Black female characters and creators have been treated as an anomaly or fetishized concept...However, in the last 20 years with the [popularity] of such films and television shows as X-Men, Thor: Ragnarok, Black Panther, Luke Cage, The Defenders, Doc McStuffins, and The Walking Dead, Black women and girls have been gradually closing the gap of representation, while simultaneously making a significant leading presence. Even more recently, Black women writers, creators, and artists are becoming more present within the comic book genre."



2020 Summer Short-term Fellows



Toussaint Losier

Assistant Professor, W.E.B. DuBois Department of African-American Studies
University of Massachusetts - Amherst

United in Peace: The History, Memory, and Politics of Street Gang Truces

"Through archival research, this project will contribute to a narrative history of the 1992 Chicago Gang Truce...this study will not only call attention to several unexamined local gang truces, but it will also provide urban historians, gang scholars, policy experts, community organizers, and the public more generally with an opportunity to reconsider how the crisis of urban gun violence can be attended to through social movement activity."

Vanessa Stokes

Artist & Entrepreneur

Creating Transformation on Chicago's West Side By Using Photography and Creative Placemaking

"I intend to continue to create public art on the West side to create transformation and to research other notable black artists in Chicago. To learn how they created art in a time of struggle, and in time of need. Art and culture is important for communities to thrive. With so much disinvestment in black Chicago communities, how were these artists able to create the art that we are celebrating and preserving today?"



David Stovall

Professor of African-American Studies and Criminology, Law & Justice
University of Illinois at Chicago

Engineered Conflict: School Closings, Public Housing, Law Enforcement and the Future of Black Life

"Research collected will contribute significantly to a book manuscript that interrogates white supremacy/racism in the form of state-sanctioned structural violence in Chicago...Because school closings, destruction of public housing and local law enforcement are primarily investigated as singular entities, their grouping under the auspices of a "engineered" or planned instability provides a framework to examine the legal, spatial, and educational conditions of Black residents of Chicago in specific communities."

Jakobi Williams

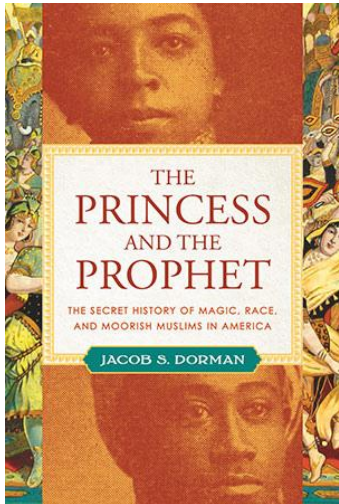
Ruth N. Halls Associate Professor Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the Department of History
Indiana University-Bloomington

Neighborhoods First: The Black Panther Party's Impact on Grassroots Community Organizations

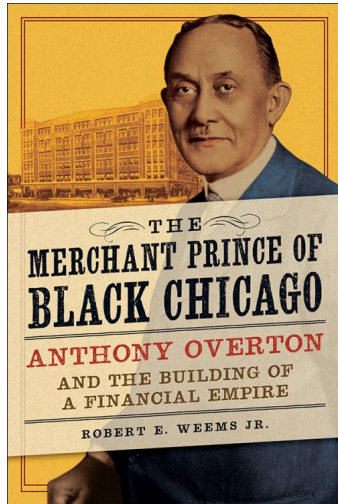
"The Illinois BPP's Rainbow Coalition documents the first time in Chicago history that poor ethnic groups led by (and for the first time including) African Americans organized as one entity to struggle against numerous disparities, to fight for political power that was denied to them all, and to significantly reduce the rigid racial and ethnic tension between these groups which had persisted since the nineteenth century. The project considers the racial, social, and political disparities that existed in Chicago during the late 1960s to demonstrate the ways in which the Original Rainbow Coalition's community organizing methods significantly influenced Chicago's machine politics, grassroots organizing, racial coalitions, and police behavior."



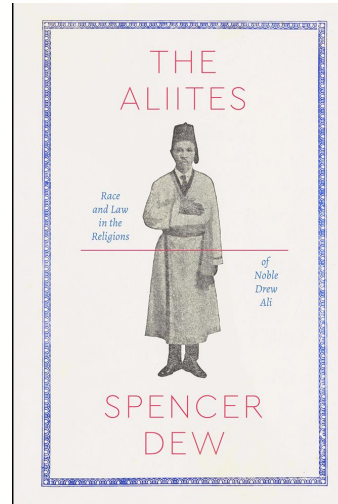
Recent Books by BMRC Fellows



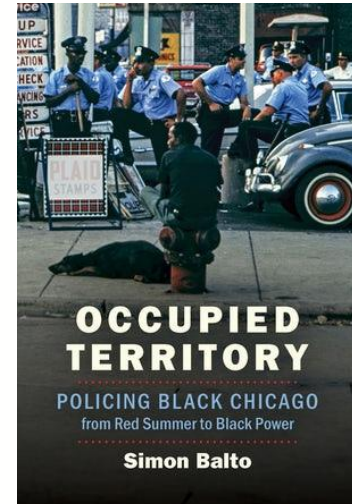
Jacob Dorman
2010 BMRC Fellow
Beacon Press, 2020



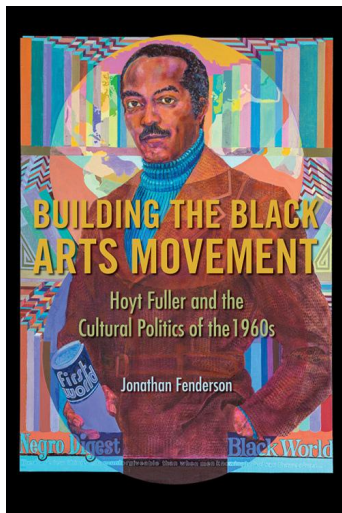
Robert Weems
2010 BMRC Fellow
University of Illinois
Press, 2020



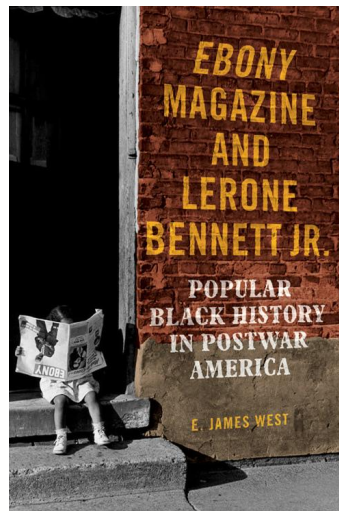
Spencer Dew
2011 BMRC Fellow
University of Chicago
Press, 2019



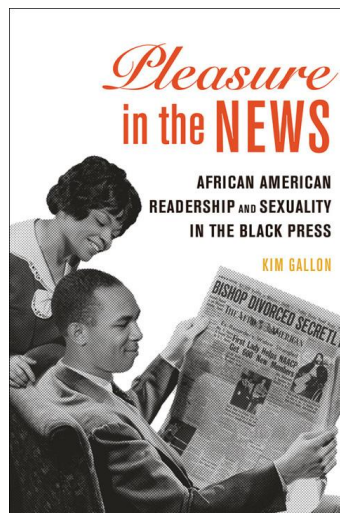
Simon Balto
2012 BMRC Fellow
University of North
Carolina Press, 2019



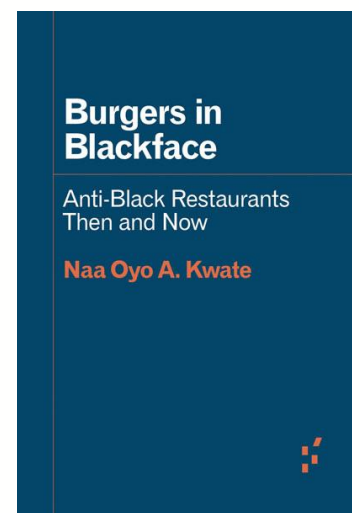
Jonathan Fenderson
2012 BMRC Fellow
University of Illinois
Press, 2019



E. James West
2013/15/17 BMRC Fellow
University of Illinois
Press, 2020



Kim Gallon
2015 BMRC Fellow
University of Illinois
Press, 2020



Naa Oyo A. Kwate
2016 BMRC Fellow
University of Minnesota
Press, 2019

Congratulations to Nichole Nelson, 2016 BMRC Fellow

The BMRC extends a warm congratulations to Nichole Nelson, who earned a Ph.D. in history from Yale University in May 2020. Nichole's dissertation is titled "A Movement Divided: How the Fair Housing Movement Succumbed to White Supremacy". During her BMRC fellowship in Chicago, Nichole reviewed collections at four of the BMRC archives with intent to concentrate on the integration of the western suburb of Oak Park, and provided information on how the communities of Hyde Park-Kenwood followed the Oak Park model of integration. Recently, Nichole was selected as a 2020 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. While there, Nichole will combine research and policy analysis to carry out community-driven advocacy campaigns to help advance racial and social justice on behalf of New Jersey's urban communities. Nichole recently published an article in the *Washington Post*, "Reparations need to be part of the conversation about racial justice."



2020 Archie Motley Archival Internship

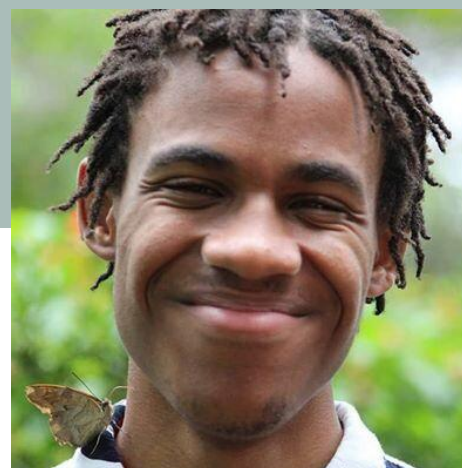
Internship site: Chicago History Museum

Project: Working remotely to describe digital images of photographic materials from the Raeburn Flerlage collection to verify, enhance, and/or create accurate image metadata in order to facilitate online discovery. Flerlage was a photographer who captured Chicago's 1960s blues and folks scenes.

About Jahru:

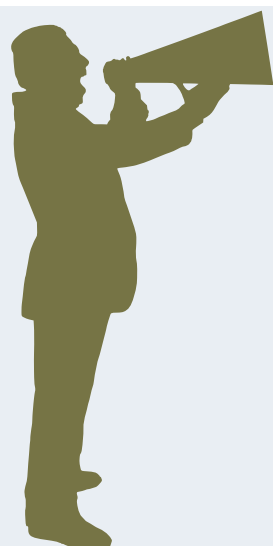
Jahru McCulley was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and later moved to Chicago where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics at DePaul University. He enjoys learning foreign languages and teaching. Putting that passion into action for the greater good, Jahru teaches ESL classes to parents and families on Chicago's West Side to help bridge the socioeconomic gaps caused by poor language fluency and proficiency. Enthusiasm oozes as Jahru speaks about working with the jazz music digital archive he is working with at the Chicago History Museum.

Jahru says "I am honored to participate in the Archie Motley Archival Internship Program at the BMRC. I hope to use my experience from the program to jumpstart my career!"



Jahru McCulley,
DePaul University

The vision for the Archie Motley Archival Internship Program is three-fold: 1) Enhance student learning as well as personal and professional development; 2) Expose students to career options available in libraries, archives, and special collections; and 3) Diversify the applicant pool for positions in Cultural Heritage Management.



CALLING ALL

Member institutions
Past and Current Fellows
Past and Current Archie Motley Interns

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!
Email us at bmrc@uchicago.edu



Between our new website, monthly e-news bulletin and biannual newsletter, we have ample ways to share announcements! Please send us news related to collections, programs, events, opportunities, resources, publications, and other achievements of interest to the BMRC network.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

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Northwestern University

Raquel Flores-Clemons, Vice-Chair,
University Archivist, Chicago State University

Elizabeth Long, Treasurer, Associate University Librarian
for IT & Digital Scholarship, University of Chicago

Jamie Nelson, Secretary, Head of Special
Collections and Archives, DePaul University

Lynn Hudson, Associate Professor,
Dept. of History, University of Illinois at Chicago

Elizabeth Loch, Archivist,
Chicago Public Library

Estevan Montaña, Director of
Libraries, Roosevelt University

Liesl Olson, Director of Chicago
Studies, Newberry Library

Morris (Dino) Robinson, Jr., Founder,
Shorefront Legacy Center

Cecilia L. Salvatore, Professor and Coordinator,
Archives and Cultural Heritage Certificate Program,
Dominican University

Adam Strohm, Director, University Archives and
Special Collections, Paul V. Galvin Library, IIT

Julie Wroblewski, Head of Collections,
Chicago History Museum

Kathleen E. Bethel, Trustee Emeritus
Leroy E. Kennedy, Trustee Emeritus

BMRC Faculty Advisor

Jacqueline Stewart, Professor, Dept. of Cinema & Media
Studies & The College, University of Chicago

BMRC Staff

Marcia Walker-McWilliams, Executive Director

Allison Sutton, Program Manager/Archivist

Laurie Lee Moses, Portal Archivist

Tanya Calvin, Community Engagement Archivist

Member Institutions

Chicago History Museum

Chicago Public Library

Chicago State University

Columbia College Chicago

DePaul University

Dominican University

DuSable Museum of
African American History

Illinois Institute of
Technology

Loyola University Chicago

The Newberry Library

Northwestern University

Oak Park Public Library

Rebuild Foundation

Roosevelt University

Shorefront Legacy Center

University of Chicago

University of Illinois at
Chicago