



BLACK METROPOLIS
BMRC
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

NEWS

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Save the Date! BMRC Annual Meeting

Join us as we share our accomplishments from 2017-2018 and reveal our new Strategic Plan!

July 25, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am

Stony Island Arts Bank, Rebuild Foundation
 6760 South Stony Island Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60649

For more information go to bmrc.uchicago.edu

Open to the public

Internship Program

The BMRC is proud to announce the Summer 2018 cohort of the **Archie Motley Archival Internship Program**.

The mission of the Archie Motley Archival Internship Program is to develop and create meaningful and educational internship opportunities for upper-undergraduate students, graduate students, and recent graduates in the field of cultural heritage management.

The Archie Motley Archival Internship Program provides stipends to students of color to provide practical employment experience as a cultural heritage professionals working in BMRC member institutions.

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Donna Edgar graduated from Dominican University this month with a Master of Library and Information Science degree, with a specialization in Archival Studies. Ms. Edgar will be interning at the **Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College Chicago** on a project to archive a Chicago Hip Hop documentary collection.



Christopher Johnson is a rising second year at the University of Chicago, planning to double major in Statistics and History. Mr. Johnson will be interning at **Chicago History Museum** where he will be assisting in an ongoing project to improve access to the museum's archives and manuscripts collection by assessing, arranging, and describing an African American history collection and creating a finding aid.



Olamide Ogunbambo is a rising fourth year student at the University of Chicago, majoring in Political Science, with interests in museums and public education work. Ms. Ogunbambo will be interning at **Illinois Institute of Technology** University Archives and Special Collections where she will be processing the records of the Progressive Community Church of Chicago (56 E. 48th Street).

Executive Director's Letter

BMRC is springing into a new season!

Greetings!

Though spring officially began a couple of months ago, flowers are still blooming and the weather is getting warmer. Many of us in Chicagoland are eager to spring forth into summer. Here at BMRC, we are also springing into a new season of activity, programs, and initiatives in which we hope you will participate!

We have developed an innovative strategic plan to guide the work of BMRC to help us spring into this new season. The five-goal plan consists of prioritized strategies and objectives to be implemented over the next 3 years. The framework will ensure that our efforts are focused while still allowing flexibility for additional opportunities relevant to our mission. To learn more about our new Strategic Plan, we hope you will save-the-date, join us, and bring a friend to our **2018 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, July 25 at 10:00am at Rebuild Foundation's Stony Island Arts Bank!**

In this *Newsletter's* cover feature, we introduce you to our Summer 2018 cohort of Archie Motley Archival Interns. We are excited to welcome two undergraduates and one graduate student to our program to work in the archives of member institutions: Chicago History Museum; Illinois Institute of Technology; and Columbia College Chicago's Center for Black Music Research. Our internship program aims to assist in the description, preparation and increased accessibility of archival and historical collections about African Americans, and to promote the diversification of archival and cultural heritage professions through practical work experience. Did you catch the coverage of our 2017 Archie Motley Archival Internship in the *UChicago News*? Click this [link](#) to read all about it.

Lastly, we are gearing up for a busy summer as we prepare to move to University of Chicago's Regenstein Library; though our address will change, our commitment to accessibility and quality of service will remain. Additionally, our plans are quickly taking shape to host what we are sure will be an extremely stimulating 2018 BMRC Fellows Reunion and National Gathering of African American Studies Scholars to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday, October 6. We look forward to co-locating our Reunion and Symposium with the Annual Meeting of the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#) (ASALH). Information about the [Reunion](#) for our former Summer Short-term Fellows is constantly updated on our website.

We look forward to engaging with you on July 25!

In solidarity, I am,

Andrea

Andrea R. Jackson

*Andrea Jackson & Natalie Moore,
WBEZ South Side Reporter and
author of The South Side, at Midwest
Archives Conference Annual Meeting
March 22, 2018*



UChicagoNews
Topics - Videos - Webcasts - For Journalists - Podcasts

Students, scholars explore African-American archives in Chicago libraries

UChicago serves as host institution for Black Metropolis Research Consortium

BMRC in the News!

The *UChicago News* featured an article on the BMRC and it's many programs titled, "*Students, scholars explore African-American archives in Chicago Libraries: UChicago serves as host institution for Black Metropolis Research Consortium.*" Read more [here!](#)



CALLING ALL FORMER BMRC FELLOWS FROM 2009 to 2017!

Join us for the **BMRC Summer Short-term Fellows Reunion and National Gathering of African American Studies Scholars** to be held in concurrence with the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Saturday, October 6, 2018, Indianapolis, IN – Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

We need to hear from you!

To both celebrate and assess the accomplishments of this premiere fellowship, we invite your participation in various ways:

- ❖ Save-the-date and make plans to join us for the Reunion
- ❖ Visit the BMRC website to update your [contact information](#) by June 15, 2018 and latest happenings; we want to hear from **all** living former Fellows
- ❖ Submit your interest to be a featured panelist in the Reunion and/or on ASALH panels sponsored by BMRC during the Annual Meeting
- ❖ Share this information with another former Fellow!

A limited amount of Reunion stipends will be made available to former Fellows based upon need. Details will be on BMRC website [hyperlink] and distributed to Fellows via contact information currently on file.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Call for Contributors to Special BMRC Edited Volume: *New Histories of Black Chicago*

Former BMRC Summer Short-term Fellows are invited to submit essays this summer for a special edited volume which seeks to uncover histories of Black Chicago, or that explore known parts of its history in new ways and from new perspectives. This volume will showcase the work of select alumni of the BMRC Fellowship program between 2009 and 2017, and will capture a range of dynamic, recent, Chicago-based scholarship that will challenge and expand our understandings of the Black Metropolis.

For the full Call for Contributors and submission guidelines, visit the BMRC [website](#).
Deadline for Abstract Submission is **July 31, 2018**.

Volume Editors:

Dr. Simon Balto, 2012 BMRC Fellow, Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Iowa
Dr. Erik Gellman, 2016-18 BMRC Board Vice-Chair, Associate Professor of History at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (effective July 2018)
Ms. Andrea Jackson, BMRC Executive Director

Meet our Board Trustee Emeriti >>>

Leroy Kennedy and Kathleen Bethel

We asked them to share their BMRC experiences and why the organization is special to them.

Leroy Kennedy



Leroy Kennedy has been an active BMRC Board member since 2011 and served as Chair from from 2015-2016. He became a Trustee Emeritus in 2017.

Leroy Kennedy recently retired from his position as Vice President for Community Affairs and Outreach Programs at the Illinois Institute of Technology. For more than 40 years, Mr. Kennedy has worked extensively with community groups and government agencies to foster affordable housing, community development, and economic empowerment in urban areas.

“One of my favorite programs and activities was the Annual Fellows Program and Breakfast. It was always such an exciting event that brought together individuals from around the nation and the world to Chicago and BMRC to continue their work, research, and interdisciplinary studies on Chicago and its African American population. Those studies illustrate the impact of African Americans on the city with broader national and international implications of the work of black Americans in Chicago. To see, hear and appreciate the diverse subject matter and historical significance of their work provided me with multiple opportunities to advance community engagement of BMRC’s work.”

Kathleen Bethel



In March 2018, the BMRC Board recognized Ms. Bethel’s over 10-year involvement in BMRC with the distinction of Trustee Emerita.

Kathleen Bethel is a long serving African American Studies Librarian, who also supports Gender and Sexuality Studies and Caribbean Studies at Northwestern University. She acquired a Master of Library Science degree from Rosary College (now Dominican University) while working at the Newberry Library. Her first professional job was as the Maywood Public Library’s storefront branch librarian. Ms. Bethel came to Northwestern after a few fabulous years as Assistant Librarian at Johnson Publishing Company.

“I was quite honored that Dr. Danielle Allen, a librarian’s daughter, visited [Northwestern University] Libraries to invite me to join the BMRC board. While I so admire BMRC’s work and many public programs, I especially enjoyed BMRC’s 10th Anniversary Party in 2015, a wonderful celebration of pride and reflection.”

Spotlight on Archives >>>

Metropolitan Planning Council, 1934-2000 Collection

University of Illinois at Chicago – Library of Health Sciences

The inter-racial Metropolitan Housing Council was founded in 1934 to provide housing for low-income families. The Council initiated the Illinois Housing Cooperation Act, leading to the formation of the Chicago Housing Authority and the first public housing projects in Chicago. It also instigated neighborhood rejuvenation projects and helped develop Chicago's first housing code. Later known as the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), the organization continues as a nonprofit, non-partisan group of business and civic leaders. MPC conducts policy analysis, outreach, and advocacy in the areas of housing, transportation and urban development. The selected images are among the records which date from as early as 1934. Housed at BMRC member University of Illinois at Chicago Library of Health Sciences, the Collection also includes correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings, other photographs, minutes, newsletters, educational materials, speeches, and legislative materials. Topics of air rights, parks, housing, subsidized housing, urban renewal, landmarks, urban planning and the organization and operation of the Metropolitan Planning Council are included in the records.



“One Room Unit at 4241 S. Evans Ave.,” ca. 1940-1959. Metropolitan Planning Council records, MPC_0000_0000_0101, Special Collections, University of Illinois at Chicago Library. Image used with permission.

This [collection](#) was processed by BMRC interns and staff as part of the "Color Curtain Processing Project" and completed on January 18, 2013. Funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), the processors were Lisa Calahan, Olle Larson, Kristin Moo, and Ben Peterson.

Amani Morrison, a two-time BMRC Summer Short-term Summer Fellow, worked on a project titled, “Domestic Architecture and Spatial Performance in Great Migration Chicago, 1940-59,” focusing on kitchenette apartments in the South Side (such the one pictured left). Over the course of her research as a BMRC Fellow, Ms. Morrison encountered the kitchenette as an integral aspect of housing discourse within the archives she researched. She found an overwhelming amount of archival material scattered in fragments throughout various repositories around the city, showcasing how many entities were engaged in some aspect of kitchenettes, whether tenants, slumlords, city officials, federal government, developers, universities, or neighborhood groups.

Among a few other BMRC members collections, the Metropolitan Housing and Planning Council's records at UIC's Library of Health Sciences archives proved to be extremely useful, allowing her to conceptualize her dissertation project placing kitchenette apartment buildings at the center. She gives special thanks to Susan Glover at UIC Library of Health Sciences Special Collections. Ms. Morrison is now undertaking to write the first cultural history of the kitchenette building in Chicago. She stated that the BMRC Summer Short-term Fellowship Project provided the access to collections that contributed to an exciting shift in her project. Ms. Morrison will continue her research as the UIC Library Special Collections Short-Term Travel Fellow furthering her engagement with UIC's collections relating to Chicago housing conditions and policy in the mid-twentieth century.



Amani Morrison, 2015 & 2017 BMRC Fellow

Developments & Kudos >>>

BMRC Faculty Advisor Jacqueline Stewart elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences



Dr. Jacqueline Stewart, professor in the Department of Cinema and Media Studies and the College, and director of University of Chicago's Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies. She and friend to BMRC, Dr. Cathy Cohen, the University of Chicago's David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science, join [a class of 213 individuals](#), announced April 18, which features world leaders, innovators and artists. This year's class also includes President Barack Obama and Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress. For more information click [here](#).

John A. McDermott Papers now available for research at Chicago History Museum

BMRC member Chicago History Museum archives intern Ashley Clark worked with archivist and BMRC Board Secretary Julie Wroblewski to process the papers of [John A. McDermott](#), a local leader in race relations and urban affairs from the 1960s into the 1990s. As an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., McDermott was active in the [civil rights movement in Chicago](#) as an organizer and as part of the Chicago Freedom Movement and [Dr. King's meeting with city leaders](#), including Mayor Richard J. Daley. He was also one of the founders of the [Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities](#), a Chicago-based fair housing group, and organizer of the Chicago Conference on Religion and Race in 1963.

Former Archie Motley Archival Intern Megan Naylor becomes Research Assistant at Chicago History Museum

This summer, former Archie Motley Archival Intern Megan Naylor will be the research assistant in the Curatorial Affairs department of the Chicago History Museum. Ms. Naylor spent the summer of 2017 as an intern in the Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University, organizing a new collection of materials from Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate. Before the BMRC internship, she had not considered a career in archives but she now sees herself as possibly entering the field. To read more about BMRC's internship program, click [here](#).

Former BMRC Fellow featured in Black Creativity of Museum of Science & Industry

Former BMRC Fellow Doug Williams cites the research he completed through BMRC as impetus for him to enter - for the first time - [Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition](#), the show his father, Douglas R. Williams started 50 years ago at the Museum of Science and Industry. This exhibit is the longest running African American juried art exhibit in the United States. Williams' work "Double" was displayed at the museum from January 15 – February 21, 2018. Further influenced by his father's community service, Williams also completed a project with the Illinois chapter of National Organization of Architects for Erie House. Read more about that project [here](#).

Several BMRC Member Institutions Commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Life on Anniversary of his death

On April 4 - 50 years after Dr. King's death - the Civic Knowledge Project's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Initiative at the University of Chicago commemorated the day with thirty minutes of civil rights era music played on the Rockefeller Chapel carillon. This was followed by a conversation with Professors Timuel D. Black and Bart Schultz about "The Day King Died." For more information, visit [civicknowledge.uchicago.edu](#).

The Chicago History Museum created an exhibition titled *Remembering Dr. King: 1929-1968* open through March 1, 2020, which invites visitors to walk through a winding gallery featuring over 25 photographs depicting key moments in Dr. King's work and the Civil Rights movement, with a special focus on his time in Chicago.



**BMRC offices are moving to the University of Chicago
Joseph Regenstein Library 1100 E. 57th St., Chicago, Illinois 60637.**



You can still reach us at:
<http://bmrc.uchicago.edu>
bmrc@uchicago.edu



773-702-2388

In Chicagoland and Beyond >>>



BMRC Members Invited to Radcliffe Workshop

BMRC Board Member, Dino Robinson, Founder of Shorefront Legacy, presented on a panel entitled “Black Research Collections: Successes and Challenges,” during the Radcliffe Workshop on Technology and Archival Processing. The two-day workshop – *A More Complete Record: The Case for Archival Partnerships* – was sponsored by Radcliffe Institute’s Schlesinger Library at Harvard University on April 12 and 13, 2018, and featured keynote conversations, workshops and brainstorming sessions on diversifying the archival record through collaboration.



Brenda Johnson (pictured 2nd from left) presents with directors and archivists.

Brenda Johnson, Library Director and University Librarian of University of Chicago – BMRC Member and host institution – served on the Workshop’s planning committee along with many others, including Julieanna Richardson of The HistoryMakers. Johnson was a featured speaker on the “Why Partner” interactive session on collaboration from Library Directors’ perspectives. Andrea Jackson, BMRC Executive Director, was also an invited participant, during which she live-tweeted the event using the #RADTech18 hashtag.



BMRC Board Member Dino Robinson (pictured on far right) presents with librarians and archivists.



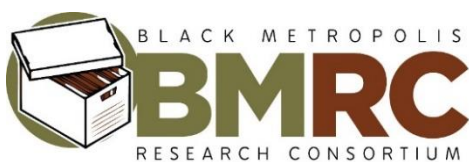
Northwestern University Bursar’s Office Takeover Commemoration

On May 3, 1968, more than 100 Northwestern students peacefully occupied the Bursar’s Office to protest the black student experience. The occupation lasted 38 hours, ending with a negotiated resolution in which the administration responded to a list of eight student demands. The “May 4th Agreement,” as it is popularly known, had a lasting and major impact on the course of the University. View archival materials, timeline, and a documentary trailer on this historic movement [here](#).

BMRC staff joined in the 50th Anniversary Commemoration, May 3-4, 2018, which included a panel discussion on “Living the Legacy – From Protest to Progress” featuring some of the original activists, followed by a campus walking tour, ending with a memorial reveal at The Black House.



Special thanks to Kenya Senecharles, a 2018 graduate of the college at the University of Chicago, for serving as a volunteer for BMRC. Ms. Senecharles completed the indexing of 45 individual videos over the course of approximately 16 hours; including previous Fellows’ Presentations and the 10th Anniversary Party.



The Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) is an unincorporated Chicagoland association of libraries, universities, and other archival institutions with major holdings of materials that document African American and African diasporic culture and history, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicagoland. BMRC seeks to aid in making its members’ holdings as broadly accessible as possible.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Life Sciences Librarian & Psychology Liaison, Northwestern University

Erik Gellman, *Vice Chairperson*

Associate Professor of History, Roosevelt University

Elisabeth Long, *Treasurer*

Associate Librarian for Information Technology & Digital Scholarship, University of Chicago

Julie Wroblewski, *Secretary*

Archivist, Archives & Manuscript, Chicago History Museum

Raquel Flores-Clemons, University Archivist, Archives, Records Management, & Special Collections, Chicago State University

Nancy Freeman, Director, Women & Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Janet Harper, Librarian, Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago

Valerie Ann Harris, Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago

Glenn Humphreys, Librarian, Special Collections, Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago Public Library

D. Bradford Hunt, Vice President for Research and Academic Programs, Newberry Library

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

Cecilia L. Salvatore, Associate Professor, Coordinator, Archives & Cultural Heritage, Dominican University

Adam Strohm, Director, University Archives & Special Collections, Paul V. Galvin Library, Illinois Institute of Technology

Leroy E. Kennedy, Trustee Emeritus

Kathleen E. Bethel, Trustee Emerita

Faculty Advisor

Jacqueline Stewart, Professor, Department of Cinema & Media Studies & the College, University of Chicago

BMRC Staff

Andrea Jackson, Executive Director

Anita Mechler, Project Manager / Archivist

BMRC Member Institutions

Bronzeville / Black Chicagoan Historical Society

The Newberry Library

Chicago History Museum – Research Center

Northwestern University – University Archives;
Charles Deering McCormick Library, Special Collections;
& Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies,
Africana Collection

Columbia College Chicago – Center for Black Music
Research & Archives and Special Collections

Rebuild Foundation

Chicago Public Library – Harold Washington Library Center
& the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of
Afro-American History & Literature

Roosevelt University – University Archives

Chicago State University – Archives & Special Collections

Shorefront Legacy Center

Dominican University – Rebecca Crown Library,
Archives & Special Collections

University of Chicago –
Special Collections Research Center

Illinois Institute of Technology

University of Illinois at Chicago – Library of Health
Sciences, Special Collections and University Archives &
Richard J. Daley Library,
Special Collections and University Archives

Loyola University Chicago – University Archives and
Special Collections & Women and Leadership Archives