



BLACK METROPOLIS
BMRC
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

NEWS

Fellowship Program | Annual Meeting | Internship Program

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Camille Ann Brewer, Executive Director

Anita Mechler, Program Manager / Archivist



BMRC 2016 Summer Short-term Fellows and BMRC Staff pose together after a presentation at the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago on July 13, 2016. Pictured from L to R: Nichole Nelson, Melanie Nelson, Misty De Berry, Asblie Sandoval, BMRC Executive Director Camille Ann Brewer, Lisa Young, Ayinde Jean-Baptiste, and BMRC Project Manager / Archivist Anita Mechler

The 2016 BMRC Summer Short-term Fellowship Program finished strong during the first week of August doubling last year's attendance at each of the final presentations. The BMRC partnered with the International Museum of Surgical Science, the Union League Club of Chicago, the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago, and with new consortium member, Rebuild Foundation at the picturesque Stony Island Arts Bank building for the final presentations. Twelve Fellows presented their findings with interested community partners who found out about the events through various social media accounts and via word-of-mouth.



BMRC Member Institutions

Bronzeville Historical Society,
Chicago

Chicago History Museum, Research
Center

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

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

Chicago State University, Archives
and Special Collections

Dominican University - Rebecca
Crown Library, Archives and Special
Collection

Illinois Institute of Technology - IIT
Archives, Paul V. Galvin Library

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

The Newberry Library

Northwestern University - Charles
Deering McCormick Library of
Special Collections & Melville J.
Herskovits Library of African
Studies

Rebuild Foundation

Roosevelt University - University
Archives

Shorefront Legacy Center, Evanston

University of Chicago - Special
Collections Research Center

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

Executive Director's Letter

Happy summer to all!

We have had an exciting summer here at the BMRC. This year's Summer Short-term Fellowship Program has been a great success. The subject topics of politics and the medical arts has drawn over 100 people to come out over the course of the summer to hear the Fellows' final presentations. From to learning about growth of fast food restaurants in Black communities to the history of jail reform at the Cook County Jail, it has been an enriching summer for all. Information about the Fellowship Program is spreading far and wide and we anticipate a large applicant pool for next year's cohort. Next year the research topics will focus on urban planning/architecture and gospel music. Stay posted!

For the last 10 years, the Office of the Provost at the University of Chicago has supported the BMRC's operations. As of July 1, the BMRC's reporting line changed from the Office of the Provost to the University Library. This shift in the BMRC's reporting line is a positive move for the BMRC as it positions and aligns the organization within the University's library and digital initiatives. We are happy to be working directly with Brenda Johnson, Library Director, and Elisabeth Long, Associate University Librarian for Digital Services, who are great champions of the BMRC. We look forward to great projects with the library as the BMRC moves into its second decade.

Thank you for your continued support,

Camille Ann Brewer

Archie Motley Archival Internship Program



Archie Motley Archival Interns: Sabine Nau (left) & Ariella Brotherson working at the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History & Literature.

The mission of the Archie Motley Archival Internship Program is to develop and create meaningful and education internship opportunities for college-level students of color in the field of cultural heritage management.

This summer, three University of Chicago students, Olivia Malone, Ariella Brotherson, and Sabine Nau, are working as Motley interns with member institutions the Northwestern University Library and the Chicago Public Library's Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature.

Olivia is processing African newspapers from the 1960s documenting the national independence movements of the day. Ariella and Sabine are working on Color Curtain Processing Project corrections at the Harsh Collection.



Archie Motley Archival Intern Olivia Malone (left) with Esmeralda Kale, George & Mary LeCron Foster Curator at the Africana Collection at Northwestern University.

2016 Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program

The 2016 Summer Short-term Fellowship Program has been a great success! The subject themed cohort of politics and the medical arts has generated new and exciting scholarship, while developing wonderful intersectional conversation amongst the cohort members. The venues for the Fellows' final presentation were selected based on the subject themes for the summer, and as a result, the BMRC has developed new partners across the city. The final presentation hosts included the International Museum of Surgical Science, the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago, the Union League Club of Chicago, and the Stony Island Arts Bank. We are also excited to share that the presentations have attracted to new audiences to the BMRC, and there is growing community excitement about the work the researchers are developing about African American life and history here in Chicago.

To date, seventy-nine scholars, researchers, and artists have participated in the BMRC's Summer Short-term Fellowship program. The work produced by the former Fellows from research in the BMRC's member institution repositories over the last eight years has created much needed scholarship on Black life in Chicago. At the conclusion of the 2017 program, we plan to host a reunion of the former Fellows. The reunion provides an excellent opportunity for Fellows to network within and across cohorts. This forum will enable former Fellows to update the BMRC and its member institutions on their on-going projects and how their time in Chicago acted as a catalyst for creating new scholarship.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

BUILDING RECORDS FOR BMRC ONLINE DATABASE

The BMRC is in the process of converting records from the organization's 2009 Survey Initiative into EAD (Encoded Archival Description) to make them available and discoverable in the BMRC's online database. We hope to have all 1100 records loaded into the database by early fall of this year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The BMRC co-sponsored with the Chicago History Museum, a Society of American Archivists Professional Workshop entitled "Copyright Law for Archivists: A Risk Assessment Approach." The workshop was held in early June at the museum, and eleven BMRC member institutions took advantage of the opportunity. The workshop focused on copyright basics with a risk-management approach to assess collections and unique materials.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AFRICAN AMERICAN FUNNEL PROJECT

The African American Subject Funnel Project was constituted in the spring of 2000 in order to contribute subject headings for inclusion in Library of Congress Subject Headings through the Subject Authority Cooperative Program of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging at the Library of Congress. This project developed through collaborative efforts between the Library of Congress and the African American Studies Librarians Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. The funnel project is concentrating on the creation of new subject headings and the changing or updating of old subject headings relating to the African American experience.

The funnel project is open to catalogers, reference librarians, and anyone else who wishes to participate. In her capacity as the Executive Director for Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC), Camille Ann Brewer is acting as the current funnel project coordinator.

BMRC STAFF PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCES

In May 2016, Camille Ann Brewer presented Personal Digital Archiving Conference hosted at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Brewer presented with Allie McGhee, a Detroit-based, on artist-driven relational database systems. Dino Robinson, of Shorefront Legacy Center, a BMRC member, also presented at the conference on community archiving and equitable partnerships.

BMRC Project Manger/Archivist, Anita Mechler participated on a panel at a day-long workshop entitled, "A Rare Choice: Career Workshop for Special & Specialized Collections Librarianship," at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) on Saturday, May 7. The workshop was designed to provide emerging information professionals with an opportunity to learn more about the field of special collections and rare book librarianship.

2016 BMRC Annual Meeting



BMRC Board, staff, Fellows, and interested community members gathered at the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago during the afternoon of July 21, 2016. Speakers included (clockwise from left): Executive Director Camille Ann Brewer on BMRC's past year's accomplishments, former Chairperson Leroy Kennedy on BMRC's contributions, and Archie Motley Archival Intern Kellee Warren on her positive learning experience working at the Chicago State University Archives.

KUDOS & NEWS



Kellee Warren, a Motley intern from the spring 2016 cohort, has just been appointed **Instructor and Special Collections Librarian at the Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago**. Kellee begins her new position on August 16. We are proud of and happy for Kellee as she begins her first full-time professional level position in a library setting. Kellee's career focus is to work as an academic librarian, and her appointment at UIC is great start to launching her career trajectory. Congratulations, Kellee!!! Way to go!!!!

BMRC Member Shorefront Legacy Center was recently awarded a Museum Grant for African American History and Culture from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to work on a project titled Building Capacity in Community Archiving.

Save the Dates!

- ◆ **Saturday, October 29, 2016** - Symposium: Pilgrim Baptist Church, Gospel Music and the Great Migration in Chicago. Pilgrim Baptist Church, 3300 South Indiana Ave., Chicago, IL 60616. Panel discussion & music performances.
- ◆ **Monday, November 14, 2016** - 2017 Summer Short-term Fellowship RFP will be open.

2016 Black Metropolis Research Consortium Summer Short-Term Fellows Final Presentations

Ayinde Jean-Baptiste is an independent audio documentarian who will be presenting on a project titled "DuSable City." His project focuses on the existing connections across histories of Haitians and US African Americans in Chicago and Haiti in service of multi-generational dialogue.



Rami Gabriel is an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Department of Humanities, History, and Social Science at Columbia College Chicago who will be presenting on a topic titled, "The Sounds of Chicago, Black Metropolis."

Please join us for an evening of research & refreshments.

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 since 2009, the Summer Short-Term Fellowship Program has engaged scholars, artists, writers, and public historians from all around the world 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.

August 4, 2016, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Stony Island Arts Bank, Rebuild Foundation
6760 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60649

Register at tinyurl.com/bmrc-rebuild2

Free and open to the public.

