



BLACK METROPOLIS
BMRC
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

NEWS

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Illinois Institute of Technology

Faculty Advisor

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

BMRC Staff

Anita Mechler, Program Manager / Archivist

SATURDAY
**OCT 29
2016**

**PILGRIM
BAPTIST
CHURCH:**
GOSPEL MUSIC &
THE GREAT MIGRATION
IN CHICAGO

PANEL DISCUSSION &
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES



Panel includes:
Dr. Lou Della Evans-Reid,
Gospel Conductor
Rev. B. Herbert Martin,
Pastor, Progressive Community Church
Robert "Bob" Marovich,
Gospel Journalist
Johari Jabir,
Artist/Scholar
Bobbi Wilsyn,
Sr. Lecturer and Coordinator of Vocal
Performance, Music Department,
Columbia College
Ethan Michaeli,
Author

photo credit:
Art Institute of Chicago Ryerson & Burnham Archives








Celebrate Archives Month in October and join us on October 29, 2016 from 10:30am-1:00pm in a conversation between musicians, scholars, and gospel music enthusiasts about the role of gospel music, as creative capital and expression, in the making of the "Black Metropolis." Register through chicagobmrc.eventbrite.com or follow along virtually via social media with #gospelarchives and #NCGCCinc hashtags.



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**

Letter from the Board Chair

It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that the BMRC Board of Directors announces the departure of Camille Ann Brewer as our Executive Director.

Since August 2014, Camille has been instrumental in reviving the organization and setting us on the path to a successful future. In her time here, she has secured continued funding for the Summer Short-term Fellowship Program with the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; she launched the Archie Motley Internship Program in the Spring of 2016, which has had two rounds of interns helping four of our member organizations with processing important African American and African diaspora collections and partnering with the Odyssey Program at the University of Chicago; she addressed eight important operational areas of the 2015 Strategic Plan; she increased BMRC membership; and she has made many other invaluable contributions in her time here that are too numerous to mention.

Camille's dedication and leadership will be missed by the Board, staff, and partners alike. We wish her the best of luck and congratulations on her continued journey with her appointment at the George Washington University Museum and Textile Museum as the museum's first full-time curator of contemporary textile art.



Over the next few months, we will be conducting a search to find a new Executive Director. During this transition period, it is our priority to find the best individual to lead, while still maintaining a stable and effective organization.

In other news, we are excited to launch the 2017 Summer Short-term Fellowship Program on November 14. Word of the application is spreading and we anticipate a large applicant pool for next year's cohort. We look forward to more great projects as the BMRC moves into its second decade. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued support,
Steve Adams
BMRC Board Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS & KUDOS



After 27 years at Illinois Institute of Technology, **Leroy E. Kennedy**, Vice President for Community Affairs and Outreach Programs, retired on September 8, 2016. We appreciate the dedication and contributions Leroy has exhibited over his long and distinguished career at Illinois Institute of Technology. Mr. Kennedy will continue to stay on the BMRC Board as a Trustee Emeritus.



We are also sad to announce the departure of BMRC Board member and archivist-extraordinaire, **Aisha Haykal**, who previously held the position of University Archivist at Chicago State University for four years. Aisha will be starting her new position as the Manager of Archival Services for the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. We wish her the best of luck in her new position and we are sure our paths will cross again!



Congratulations to 2012 & 2015 BMRC Fellow **Neil Clarke** (and his son, Ayanda Clarke) on being installed as a chief in Osogbo, the capital city of Osun State in Nigeria. Clarke is now Chief Baba Neil Clarke, Alufopejo Awo of Osogbo. Read more about his appointment and all of his previous accomplishments at *Our Time Press*.



Congratulations to BMRC Project Manager / Archivist **Anita Mechler** on becoming a Certified Archivist (CA) by passing the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) Exam and becoming a member of ACA, taken in September.

BLACK MEDIA ARCHITECTURE

2013 & 2015 BMRC Fellow **James West** developed a research project that explores the places and spaces of black media outlets in Chicago and the broader intersections of race, media, and architecture in the United States. This is also featured on the BMRC's website.

2017 Summer Short-term Fellowship Program

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 will provide 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.

The subject areas slated for 2017 are: Gospel Music; Design, Urban Design and Architecture

August 2017 will mark the 85th anniversary of Thomas A. Dorsey's (Father of Gospel Music) gospel music standard, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," which was composed in Chicago. The BMRC will invite scholars, musicologists, and musicians to submit proposals to research the under-investigated musical genre of Chicago gospel music and its impact on American popular music, Jazz, and/or other music genres.

In 1937, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, a Hungarian photographer as well as professor in the Bauhaus school, was recruited from Europe to found the New Bauhaus in Chicago, which would later become the School of Design and then the Institute of Design. We will invite researchers to investigate the lives and careers of African American designers working in Chicago and/or how modern design approaches, through architecture and urban design, affected African American communities in the City of Chicago.

Request for Proposals (RFP) will open on Monday, November 14, 2016.

The application process will close on midnight CST on January 15, 2017.

Applicants will be notified of results by April 1, 2017.



Announces

**The Timuel D. Black Short Term Fellowship in African
American Studies**

The Timuel D. Black, Jr. Fund, a standing committee of the Vivian G. Harsh Society, Inc., is providing short-term research fellowships related to the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature housed at the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library of the Chicago Public Library. The fellowship program supports scholars, writers, educators and institutional researchers who would benefit from research conducted at the Vivian G. Harsh Collection. The fellowship period is for one or two months during summer 2017.

Request for Proposals (RFP) will open on Monday, November 14, 2016

The application process will close on midnight (CST) January 15, 2017

Applicants will be notified of results by April 1, 2017

Contact Information:

Vivian G. Harsh Society, Inc.

773-844-7644

info@harshsociety.org

Vivian G. Harsh Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Donations to the Society are tax deductible as charitable contributions in accordance with the law but may also be deductible as a business expense - check with your tax advisor.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

RISE TOGETHER ORIENTATION WEEK FACILITATION

BMRC Project Manger/Archivist Anita Mechler participated in the University of Chicago's Campus Life RISE Together program as part of Orientation Week on September 19 and 20, 2016. This meeting engages students in small group conversations about their individual identities and how, as new members of the University community, students contribute to a healthy, diverse, and inclusive campus atmosphere. Students also received valuable campus resources related to civility, diversity, and community standards.

57th & WOODLAWN BLOCK PARTY

For the second year, BMRC staff participated in and helped plan the University of Chicago's 57th & Woodlawn Block Party as part of Orientation Week on Friday, September 23, 2016. The Block Party had close to 1,500 participants who were introduced to and learned about the various organizations with offices on this block. The celebration included games, food trucks, and music. It was a great success!

CITY OF CHICAGO, YEAR OF PUBLIC ART PROJECT

BMRC Project Manger/Archivist Anita Mechler is currently participating in the planning process of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) "Year of Public Art 2017" (YOPA) along with other cultural institutions throughout Chicago. Ms. Mechler is hoping to highlight the 2017 Summer Short-term Fellowship Program through this project.

TERRA FOUNDATION, ART DESIGN CHICAGO

BMRC staff also participated in a public programs planning meeting with the Terra Foundation and other Chicago-area cultural institutions on September 30, 2016 at the Hull House Museum for a "think and talk session" on possible collaborative programs as well as current projects that are in development for the Art Design Chicago year of 2018.

BMRC RECORDS HOUSED AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Camille Ann Brewer, as part of closing her work as the Executive Director of BMRC, collaborated with the University of Chicago Special Collections Department to acquire archived institutional records for the BMRC.

CHICAGO AREA ARCHIVES, OPEN ARCHIVES CHICAGO

Over 30 local archives, research centers, and cultural institutions in the Chicago area, including 11 BMRC member institutions, opened their doors to offer special events to the public from October 6-8, 2016. The theme "Yours to Explore" provided an opportunity to discover unique historical materials and engages with archivists, librarians, and museum curators. Visitors enjoyed activities such as behind-the-scenes tours, film screenings, and exhibit talks designed to showcase each site's collection, programs, and services.