

2012 – 2013 Annual Report Summary

Director's Note:

2012-13 marked an important transitional time for the African-American Cultural Center. In 2010, a campus wide assessment of the then five (5) Centers for Diversity (CFD) recommended that with campus support, the African-American Cultural Center:

- Address office space and privacy issues,
- Conduct an extensive review to clarify or update the Center's mission (and restructure its staffing and programming accordingly), and
- Significantly increase student involvement in its programs and find more balance between community outreach and student involvement

In their Final Report, the CFD Review Committee also identified nine (9) major recommendations made to the University, which included holding the Centers' budgets harmless, keeping their offices physically separate, addressing space inadequacies, and hiring a development officer to help fundraise for the centers.

When I arrived during the summer of 2011, I began to tackle the physical renovations while working through an assessment of the Center's programs and partnerships. Thanks to the professional efforts of UIC's carpenters, painters, and our project manager, fresh coats of paint, new carpeting, and new furniture welcomed AACC staff members and community patrons to the Center's 2012-13 programs. The original earth-toned walls and carpeting first installed throughout the office, library and exhibit hall during the 1990's were replaced with a tranquil and sea-inspired pallet of blues, greens, and whites. In the gallery, heavy paneling installed nearly two decades ago was removed to reveal the windows and install alternative riggings systems to display art works. Existing chairs were reupholstered, and surplus materials repurposed. The result is a more open and inviting work and exhibition space for staff and patrons alike.

The issue of engagement – particularly in relation to faculty and students – is an ongoing and evolving endeavor. During 2012 – 2013, I initiated a plan to reorganize the AACC's programmatic initiatives in an effort to forge new relationships both on and off campus, and expand the Center's work as focused through the lens of our revitalized mission. An ethnographer by training, I embraced this opportunity to spend a lot of time "in the field," and out of the silo, so to speak; visiting with the directors of the other Cultural Centers, stopping by academic department offices, having coffee with colleagues and students, presenting at department and unit meetings, guest lecturing, presenting at orientations, student retreats and working group colloquia, facilitating workshops, teaching Honors and Summer College seminars, checking-in with student organizations and their advisors, introducing myself to faculty, deans and directors, attending campus events, but most importantly, listening. To everyone who had something to say to me.

The projects and collaborations that have emerged as a result of these formative encounters build upon the original vision of the Center as a site for rigorous research and deep community involvement while forging new directions to meet the changing needs of campus and community partners. Our transitional staff

worked diligently to align our mission with aspects of our collaborators' core work, and began to identify and mobilize Center, campus, and community assets to address pressing social justice issues. In 2012-13, our particular focus on the interrelated issues of diversity and social justice enabled us to initiate new conversations with student military veterans, maternal health-care practitioners, undocumented students, Chicago public school students and teachers, and members of our diverse communities who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system. Over the course of the year, we collaborated with campus and community partners to produce more than 20 public programs that brought almost 1000 visitors to the center. We hosted 27 campus units and student organizations in our Library space, and provided curricular support to 240 Chicago Middle and High School Students in the form of guided exhibition tours. We are energized by these relative successes, and are committed to engaging campus and community stakeholders in this work.

To learn more about AACC programs and initiatives, please visit our wordpress site: uicaacc.wordpress.com or contact the Center at 312-996-9549. Follow us on twitter, like us on facebook!

-- **Lori D. Barcliff Baptista**

AACC Mission

Founded in 1991, the AACC is an interdisciplinary unit that supports the academic and diversity missions of the University through innovative programs and initiatives that relate particular African-American and African Diaspora traditions, creative practices, and experiences to broader frameworks of thought, feeling, and action. The Center connects campus and community partners who reflect the diverse intellectual and cultural life of UIC and the greater Chicago area to promote intercultural understanding and social change.

The Center is especially invested in translating academic research and first-voice experiences of the diaspora into creative, informative, engaging and accessible formats. Utilizing exhibitions, film screenings, open-mic poetry gatherings, lecture-demonstrations, dance, visual and performing arts workshops, internships, storytelling projects, the Heritage Garden and other collaborative programs and initiatives, the AACC provides essential opportunities for UIC, students, faculty, staff and community partners to connect with a number of committed stakeholders.

A key element of the Center's approach is our ability to thoughtfully convene a diverse cross-section of individuals to humanize the experiences of people from seemingly different backgrounds through "hands-on" and embodied encounters.

AACC Memberships & Professional Affiliations

- Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks- UIC
- African American Museums
- African-American Black Cultural Centers
- Chicago Cultural Alliance
- The Field Museum
- The Museum of Science and Industry
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- The Chicago Children's Museum

The Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change at UIC

The African-American Cultural Center is one of the six Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) at UIC reporting to the Vice Provost for Diversity/Special Assistant to the Chancellor Under Provost and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change are committed to social change grounded in the principles of inclusion, access, and equity. Our name reflects the collective purpose of the Centers at UIC: to expand understanding of the value of cultural diversity and connect diverse assets to find creative solutions for common challenges. This collective purpose draws upon the Centers' expertise in scholarship and practice to provide relevant support to our specific populations on campus and opportunities for intercultural engagement among students, faculty, staff, and Chicago communities.

The six centers include:

African-American Cultural Center www.aacc.uic.edu

Asian American Resource and Cultural Center www.aarcc.uic.edu

Disability Resource Center www.uic.edu/depts/oa/disability_resources/

Gender & Sexuality Center www.gsc.uic.edu

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center www.uic.edu/depts/lcc/

Women's Leadership and Resource Center www.uic.edu/depts/owa/

- **Health and Wellness**

In 2012-13, the AACC offered workshops, lectures, films, visual arts exhibitions and live concerts that again and again returned to questions about well-being in the broadest sense of the word “health.” We were concerned with not only physical capability or soundness, but in the words of the Oxford English Dictionary, the African Diaspora’s “spiritual, moral, [and] mental... well-being.” We were influenced by current events such as the immigration debate brewing in Congress and local concerns about how to protect Chicago’s children from violence in the street and the home. In response, the AACC developed innovative, arts-based methods of engaging UIC students, faculty and staff and the larger Chicagoland community in dialogues about a range of community health issues. These events gathered patrons together to expose them to some of the most pressing issues facing the Diaspora today. By creating artistic forums in which people might learn from one another hands-on through processes that complement more traditional, academic teaching practices, we hope to deepen people’s understanding, empathy and compassion for the struggles of others as a first stepping-stone towards future community activism.

- **Arts Workshops with UIC Hospital Pediatric Patients (July 2012 - November 2012)**

Working closely with Child Life Specialist *Lindsay Cousins*, the AACC paired professional arts-educators with pediatric patients at UIC hospital for four, two-hour jewelry, craft and collage-making workshops. Approximately 20 youth patients participated in workshop activities intended to provide a welcome distraction from their hospitalization.

And programming

- **On National Voter Registration Day (Fall-September 25th, 2012)** the six Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change participated in registering dozens of UIC students to vote.

- **Afterschool Matters: Camp Dee Jay (Spring 2013)**

LifeVine Works is a non-profit organization geared toward youth, ages 8-19. Based in the Austin community of Chicago, they provide creative projects or “works” that serve as vehicles for learning the arts and sciences. LifeVine Works’ founders are natives of the community and are dedicated to providing opportunities for youth in the areas of entrepreneurship and the arts. Recognizing that youth are crucial to economic empowerment and community development, the objective of the programs is to provide reliable outlets for self-expression and personal growth, while fostering group cohesiveness, discipline, focus and positive work ethic. Camp Dee Jay specifically used the arts of making music but also focused on teaching math and communications concepts.

- **Heritage Garden & Heritage Garden Student Task Force (Spring 2013)**

People in cities like Chicago and urban public universities like University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are directly implicated in regional and campus climate plans. Diverse campus and community groups can work together to reduce a number of environmental stresses and create a more livable and resilient city. UIC Heritage Garden is sponsored by the six Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) in the east campus. It is an educational space that relates diversity to quality of life issues that benefit both people and nature. The Heritage Garden uses an integrated approach that links environmental and social concerns to promote social change. As stewards of the Heritage Garden, the Cultural Centers will be charged with making the

garden a resource for the campus and neighboring communities through on and off-site cultural and horticultural programs, community outreach and engagement activities. To this end, two of the CCUSC - the Latino Cultural Center (LCC) and the African-American Cultural Center (AACC) - are working with a new group of student leaders on campus called the Heritage Garden Student Task Force (HGSTF).

- ***Common Concerns, Different Responses: A Framework for Explaining Diversity (HON 201)***

Dr. Baptista, an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre & Music, and a Faculty Affiliate of the Program in Museum and Exhibition Studies at UIC taught this Honors College seminar (HON 201) during the Spring 2013 semester alongside Dr. Cabrera, Director of the Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center. The seminar, drew upon anthropological perspectives and methods to underscore the importance of attending to culture in our everyday interactions and to provide a comparative method for understanding cultural similarities and differences.

[African-American Cultural Center Summer 2012 Events](#)

2012 marked the AACC's first "Summer Arts Festival," a three-month engagement with African-American, Afro-Caribbean and African Summer traditions and public celebrations. The AACC established a format for this summer-long program, with the goal of increasing our visibility and strengthening our relationships with campus and community partners. Six interactive workshops were offered (see below). In each workshop, local artists instructed participants in basic art-making practices and shared some of the history of the art forms through hands-on activities.

These workshops were complemented by an interactive session on family genealogical research, which introduced patrons to basic archival research processes and encouraged them to utilize materials discovered in libraries and other collections in their personal and creative works.

To reach the broadest possible audience, on July 18, 2012, the AACC invited the four dance practitioner groups who had offered workshops to perform in a Summer Arts Showcase finale. More than 100 UIC faculty, staff, alumni and community members gathered in the East Campus quad for the concert. Local dancers and choreographers performed alongside more than 50 high school students, whose parents also came out to show their support. Residents from Kenwood, Edgewater, and Humboldt Park participated in the Showcase, which also included music provided by UIC Radio, live African drumming and a BBQ on the UIC quad. Community partners included: Afterschool Matters: Camp Dee Jay, DANCE DISCOVERY- Kenwood United Church and Edgewater Presbyterian Church (Associated with Tamboula Ethnic Dance Company).

- July 11th, 2012 **Diaspora Dance Series: Afro-Haitian Dance**
 - 42 participants
- July 18th, 2012 **Summer Arts Showcase**
 - 250 participants (estimate)
- July 25th, 2012 **Diaspora Dance Series: Chicago Style Steppin'**
 - 9 participants
- August 1st, 2012 **Summer Arts Festival Genealogy Workshop**, in partnership with Mojo's Pen

- 9 participants
- August 8th, 2012 **Visiting Artists' Exhibition Series-** Reception and Panel Discussion
 - 24 participants
- August 16th, 2012 **Summer Arts Festival Photography Workshop**, in partnership with Mojo's Pen
 - 11 participants

Total estimated number of participants during Summer Arts Festival: *345 people

*NOTE: Summer Arts Festival began in June of fiscal year 2011-2012; as a result 3 events were not added to the total estimated number of participants.

African-American Cultural Center Fall 2012 Events:

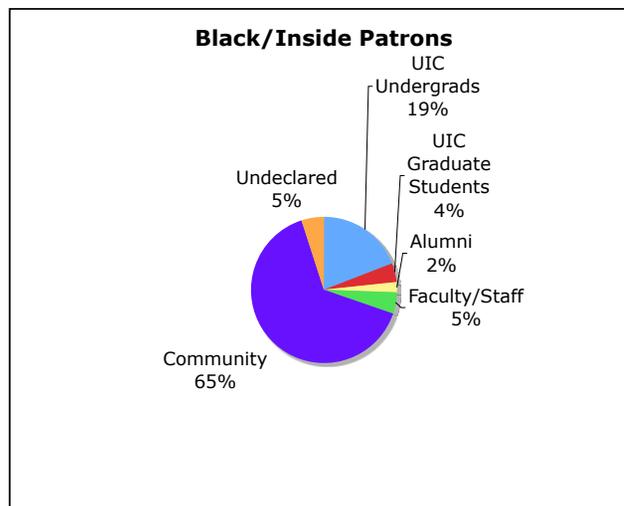
- October 23rd- December 14th, 2012 **Black/Inside: A History of Captivity and Confinement in the U.S. A Community Curated Exhibition.** <http://blackinside2012.wordpress.com/> Our flagship fall exhibition, co-sponsored with Project NIA, <http://www.project-nia.org/> with related programming produced by the Public Square, the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, Jane Addams Hull House Museum, and the Social Justice Initiative at UIC.

"Necessary... Invaluable... Powerful, Painful, Truthful... Inspiring, Educational, Enlightening... WOW."

These were just a few of the words patrons used to describe **Black/Inside: A History of Captivity & Confinement in the U.S.** This community-curated, multi-media exhibit was co-organized and co-created by exhibit designer Billy Dee, Mariame Kaba and Teresa Silva, hosted and co-sponsored by the AACC, and organized and co-sponsored by Project NIA. The exhibition considered how a system of criminalizing and imprisoning Black men and women has been sustained from colonial times to the present. The interactive exhibition used multimedia, material objects, a life-size reconstruction of a jail cell, photographs, daguerreotypes, and other images to historicize "black life" by drawing parallels between the conditions of slavery and incarceration.

Black/Inside included a number of interactive public workshops that introduced spectators to the parameters of the prison industrial complex; a virtual exhibition and popular education guide; guided tours for Chicago Public School (CPS) students and community organizations; and a performance by Sisters Rising, a theatre company comprised entirely of formerly incarcerated women. **Black/Inside** was prominently featured in traditional media (NPR/WBEZ, WVON, The Chicago Tribune, CAN TV) and social media, covered by the UIC News, and tied to the CPS social science curricula. **The project welcomed more than 650 documented visitors.** These included 125 UIC undergraduates, 28 UIC grad students, 14 alumni, 31 faculty and staff, and 424 visitors self-identified as **Black/Inside** included a number of interactive public workshops that introduced spectators to the parameters of teachers,

students, social workers, justice system professionals, ex-offenders, public and charter school students, members of faith-based organizations, artists and members of the general public.



Mounted in conjunction with **Project NIA, WHO ARE THEY? Black/Inside** events complemented programs sponsored by the Jane Addams Hull House Museum, the UIC Social Justice Initiative, and the Public Square, and served as co-curricular programming for the Department of Sociology (Sociology 105, 220 and 225). From comments recorded in our Visitor’s Book, it seems clear that the exhibit and concurrent programming educated, moved, and inspired visitors, many of whom had personal experiences with law enforcement. No one left with the same understanding of the criminal legal system, of the men, women and children who have been incarcerated, or of ordinary people’s ability to mobilize for social change:

“Wow, where to begin... They accused blacks of everything... Racism is systemic and institutionalized... I learned so much, particularly about the role everyday people can play in creating change... I will be back.”

Such was the support of the project, that when *Black/Inside* closed at UIC, it moved to an exhibition hall at Trinity United Church of Christ at 400 West 95th, where it was on display for several months.

- 654 participants
- November 7th, 2012 **Feeling Beautiful All Over** a performance by the Sisters Rising theatre ensemble. This event was presented with Still Point Theatre Collective <http://www.stillpointtheatrecollective.org/home> , in conjunction with Project NIA and the Black/Inside exhibition.
 - 35 participants

- November 12th, 2012 **I Define Myself: Undocumented and Unafraid-** Supporting Immigrant Communities, a discussion of the impact of President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA) upon African and Asian Communities. Presented with the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center as a part of the traveling exhibition and public programming series co-sponsored by the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change, the Jane Addams Hull House Museum, and members of the Immigrant Youth Justice League <http://icirr.org/content/immigrant-youth-justice-league> participating in the campaign: Coming Out of the Shadows INSIDE OUT <http://www.insideoutproject.net/en>

Despite several acts of vandalism in which portraits and their supporting materials have been defaced, damaged or stolen, the exhibit continues to circulate in the open, challenging popular representations of undocumented people as predatory, monstrous “aliens.” The smiling student portraits – shot in a style reminiscent of police mug shots but featuring young people posing glamorously for the camera and others clearly clowning around-- invite reconsideration of the hysterical myths and frightening images that have been propagated to criminalize, isolate, silence and ban them.

- 40 participants

African-American Cultural Center Spring 2013 Events:

- February 15th- March 15th, 2013 **Reading with and without Dick and Jane: Objects, Images and Imaginings.** An interactive visual arts exhibition that addresses the politics of identity and literacy in 20th century America. For decades, educators, policy makers and parents have fought over the best ways to teach children to read. The popular *Dick and Jane Readers* were introduced in 1930 as an innovative way to teach basic vocabulary to young readers. By the 1960s, however, they had fallen out of favor because of what critics identified as their overly simplistic narratives, limited vocabulary, and, later conservative representations of race, gender and class. *Dick and Jane* would be slowly phased out of middle class and white school districts in responses, but in underserved poor and working class neighborhoods with limited funds, *Dick and Jane* would live on despite the criticisms, with newly discovered Black and Brown families at the center of their narratives. This exhibition addresses questions about educational opportunity using some of the most popular children’s books as catalysts for the investigation. Curated by AACC Director Lori Barcliff Baptista. Mounted in conjunction with performances of “The Bluest Eye,” by Toni Morrison, Adapted by Lydia Diamond, and Produced by the UIC Department of Theatre and Music, Directed by Derrick Sanders.
 - Estimated 50 participants
- March 11th, 2013 **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE: A Visual Collage and Series of Conversations with Military Veterans** Launched with the support of a number of community-based veteran service organizations, the Office of the Dean of Students/Student Veteran Affairs, and the UIC ROTC, the project goals of this program are: to provide a welcoming and creative space for veterans and reservists to share their experiences; to build the capacity of those who have been impacted by military service to utilize creative formats to share their stories; explore how social stigmas and politics, technology and the continually shifting political landscape shape the ways that civilians relate to vets; and finally to foster an environment that promotes understanding

between veterans and civilians. Curated by AACC Director and staff. Supported in part by funding from the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs/Dean, Honors College.

- 21 participants
- March 20th, 2013 **Civic Cinema *Catching Babies***. This film screening and facilitated discussion was presented as part of the African-American Cultural Center's Women's History Month film series, "A Woman's Work: Midwives and Mamas." Moderated by UIC Gender and Women Studies professor *Sekile Nzinga Johnson*, the film will be re-screened during fall semester of 2014 in collaboration with the School of Public Health, Nurses for Reproductive Health and Justice, the Center for Research on Women and Gender, and Chicago Volunteer Doulas. Twenty-seven UIC undergraduates, 2 UIC grad students, 1 UIC alumni, 4 faculty/staff and 11 community partners attended the screening and post-film discussion. Presented with the Rafael Cintron Ortiz Latino Cultural Center as a part of their Civic Cinema series.
 - 56 participants
- March 21st, 2013 **A Conversation: Freedom of Speech in an Urban Public University**. A story circle Presented with the Office of Diversity and co-facilitated by the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change
 - 31 participants
- April 24th, 2013 **Bringin' in Da Spirit: Honoring the accomplishments of African American Midwives** with the support of UIC School of Public Health and Chicago Volunteer Doulas.
 - 17 participants
- June 6th & 7th, 2013 **The Reason Why: Exhibit and Public Programming Series**. Opening Reception for our flagship fall 2014 exhibition. The purpose the exhibit is to recognize the 120th anniversary of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 -- also commonly referred to as the Chicago World's Fair -- as an opportunity to relate historical accounts of African-Americans' thoughts, feelings and experiences of the Fair to contemporary debates over who benefits from large-scale public festivities in Chicago. Organized around the perspectives espoused by the four African-Americans who co-authored Ida B. Wells' pamphlet, *The Reason Why the Colored American Is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition*, this project:
 - Explores how many African Americans felt about being excluded from the planning processes and representational practices of the World's Columbian Exposition (WCE);
 - Highlights some of the lesser-known contributions of "Black" Chicagoans during this time period and how they were celebrated in the "ethnic" or "minority" press;
 - Sparks dialogue over the ethical conundrum of how "ethnic" peoples and cultures were represented in the fair; and
 - Relates the legacy of the World's Columbian Exposition to contested uses and representations of public space in Chicago.Curated by museum professional Verna (Kay) McCrimon, designed by Pam Rice, and funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council

- 65 participants

***NOTE: The Reason Why** exhibit ran through the end of December, and will also be included in the 2013-2014 Annual Report.

Total **estimated** number of guests that came to AACC public programs: **969 guests**

Summary of Chicago Public Schools Site Visits

Office of Social Science Instruction and Learning
Wells High School (25) visited for Black/Inside exhibit
Kelly High School (25) visited for Black/Inside exhibit
Asian American Resource and Cultural Center sponsored CPS High School visit (all CCUSC) (30)
Crane High School (17) visited for Black/Inside exhibit
Harlan High School (20) visited for Black/Inside exhibit
Harper High School (20) visited for Black/Inside exhibit
Ella Flagg Young Elementary School (30) campus tour and
Reading with and without Dick and Jane: Where are you?
Martin Luther King Jr. College Prep High School (20) visited for The Reason Why exhibit

Summary of Local Charter School Site Visits

Young Women’s Leadership Charter School of Chicago (25) visited for Black/Inside exhibit
Community Christian Academy- Alternative Charter School (30) visited Black/Inside exhibit

Conferences, Workshops & Presentations

Lori Barcliff Baptista, Director:

- “Climate, Mind and Behavior Symposium (CMB)” Participatory Facilitator for the annual Garrison Institute CMB Symposium. The Garrison Institute, Garrison NY. June 2013
- “Non-traditional Jobs in Academia” Invited panelist for Performance Studies Graduate Student brown-bag session. Northwestern University, April 2013
- “What do Public Art, Daycare and Soul Food have to do with Climate Change?” Invited workshop facilitator for the UIC Sustainability Initiative. March 2013
- “Civic Engagement in Cultural and Environmental Sustainability Issues,” Invited workshop facilitator for the Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program at UIC. Chicago, IL. February 2013
- “Stories from African-American Veterans,” Invited presenter for the UIC Human Resources Diversity brown-bag luncheon. UIC, Chicago, IL. February 2013
- “Inter-Cultural Approaches Towards Birth: Volunteer Doula Training” Invited workshop facilitator for Chicago Volunteer Doulas cultural awareness training. UIC, Chicago, IL. October 2012
- “Expanding Engagement: University Staff as Agents of Social Change.” Invited panelist for the 2012 Imagining America Conference. NYU, New York, NY. October 2012

AACC RESOURCES

The African-American Cultural Center has an exhibition gallery and a library that can be used by campus units, registered student organizations and community organizations to host meeting or events free of charge. The gallery is available on a limited basis, as it is the primary location for AACC exhibitions and sponsored programs. Both the Gallery and library spaces are in high demand.

The AACC Library is located in room 200 Addams Hall. The Library has wireless access, a book collection and resources for research on African-American and Diaspora topics for dissertations, theses, term papers, and projects. Members of the UIC community can check out books and other materials from our collection for free. The library is also available for meetings and other gatherings. During this academic year many student organizations have used the space for meeting purposes or events. Professor Robert Paul Malchow for Biology 100, held his office hours during the spring semester 2013.

UIC REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS – AACC LIBRARY AND GALLERY SPACE USAGE

Registered Student Organizations	Fall 2012 (Jul-Dec) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Spring 2013 (Jan-June) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Total Attendees
Alpha Phi Gamma Sorority Cultural Pot Luck			20	1	20
Alpha Psi Lambda Fraternity			30	1	30
Delta Psi Alpha Multicultural Co-Ed Fraternity	40	1			40
Friends of Spartacus Youth Club	40	2	80	2	120
Gamma Phi Omega Sorority	439	24	110	7	549
GPAAC (Greeks of Pan Asian American Council)			60	1	60
M.E.S.A. (Mexican Students de Aztlan) Shadow Day			50	1	50
Mojo's Pen	300	6	240	6	540
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority	125	5	233	16	358
Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity			15	1	15
Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.	80	4	54	4	134
Students for A Democratic Society	20	1			20
Students for Israel			30	1	30
Students Organizing for Socialism	24	1	30	1	54
Undergraduate Student Government			50	1	50
Urban Planning & Policy Student Association			20	1	20
(15 Student Organizations)					
TOTALS	1068	44	1007	44	2090

UIC CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS – AACC LIBRARY AND GALLERY SPACE USAGE

Campus Organizations	Fall 2012 (Jul-Dec) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Spring 2013 (Jan-June) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Total Attendees
AAMP (Asian American Mentor Program)			30	1	30
AARCC (Asian American Resource and Cultural Center)	350	10	161	8	511
Academic Professional Mentor Program	30	1			30
Alumni LAC (Life After College)	80	2			80
Black Alumni Advisory Council			30	1	30
Business Alumni Association	40	1			40
Campus Programs Retreat	11	1			11
Campus Workers Coalition	12	1			12
CCSB (Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Blacks)	45	3	45	3	90
CCSB Executive Meeting	11	1			11
CCSLGBTQA (Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer People and Allies)	20	1	30	1	50
College of Engineering	50	1			50
Counseling Center			120	6	120
Early Outreach Program (Teacher’s Meeting)	120	5			120
Engage Program	15	1			15
GSC (Gender and Sexuality Center) Self Defense Workshops			65	3	65
Graduate College			90	2	90
Graduate Employees Organization	50	1	30	1	80
HACE (Hispanic Alliance for Career Advancement)	30	1	20	1	50
Human Resources Department	12	1			12
Immigrant Youth Justice League			30	1	30
Office of Admissions – Panel Discussion with Students			40		40
Office of Diversity			20	1	20
Office of Sustainability	17	1	40	1	57
Professor Robert Paul Malchow’s Weekly Office Hours (Department of Biological Sciences)			55	11	55

Campus Organizations	Fall 2012 (Jul-Dec) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Spring 2013 (Jan-June) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Total Attendees
SEIU Local 73 (Service Employees International Union)	50	2			50
Social Justice Initiative - Women's Peace Breakfast			15	1	15
Sociologist Club	15	1			15
Study Abroad Office	40				40
Talk of the Town - Toastmasters	70	7	110		180
Tutorium in Intensive English	357	21			357
University Task Force Sub-Committee			5	1	5
(32 Campus Organizations)					
TOTALS	1,425	63	936	43	2361

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS – AACC LIBRARY AND GALLERY SPACE USAGE

Community Organizations	Fall 2012 (Jul-Dec) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Spring 2013 (Jan-June) Number of Attendees	# of Events	Total Attendees
African-American Community Leaders Breakfast			60	1	60
After School Matters (LifeVine Works Camp DJ)			289	15	289
Antiwar Committee Chicago			55	2	55
Capoeira Akebelan of Chicago			30	1	30
Chicago Cultural Alliance Meeting	20	1			20
Chicago Volunteer Doulas	20	1	35	2	55
Women Bike Chicago			58	1	58
(7 Community Organizations)					
TOTALS	40	2	527	22	567

Total Number of Organizations for the 2012-13 Year = 54

Total Number of Attendees – Fall 2012 = 2,533

Total Number of Attendees – Spring 2013 = 2,485

Total Attendees for the 2012-13 Year = 5,018

Total Number of Events – Fall 2012 = 109

Total Number of Events – Spring 2013 = 109

Total Number of Events for the 2012-2013 Year = 218

Our Staff

Lori Barcliff Baptista, Ph.D., directs the African-American Cultural Center, is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre & Music, and a Faculty Affiliate of the Program in Museum and Exhibition Studies at UIC. An interdisciplinary scholar/artist, she integrates arts, humanities and social science practices and perspectives to examine and cultural representations and their impact on marginalized communities. Her diverse career features more than 15 years of experience with research, development, and participation in cultural programs and initiatives that convene artists, civic leaders, students, faculty and staff, cultural institutions, and grassroots organizations to address social concerns. She is especially interested in creative practices that individuals engage in to honor, validate or convey their sense of connectedness to multiple places or traditions, and has published a number of articles, working papers and book reviews on these topics. Dr. Baptista earned a Ph.D. in performance studies from Northwestern University, a master's degree in liberal studies from Rutgers University, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. She teaches film, literature, ethnography and performance-based courses.

Tamika Brown-Veal is the Program Coordinator for the AACC. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in both Criminal Justice and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 2007. Tamika has a strong interest in African American Studies, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection; she is excited about finding different ways to incorporate these topics into some of the center's programming and really appreciates working in an environment that fosters creative, innovative programming surrounding the African Diaspora and African American Culture. She is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and serves as Campus Advisor for the Omicron Beta Chapter of her sorority here at UIC.

Edith Tovar is the Program Assistant for both the AACC and the Latino Cultural Center. A native of Chicago's South Lawndale- Little Village Community and the youngest of four siblings, Edith was the second in her family to graduate from a university. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish-Economics with a minor in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Edith works to enhance UIC students' knowledge of and appreciation for African-American and African-Diaspora identities and Latino culture through various program initiatives.

Verna (Kay) McCrimon provides the AACC with Extra-Help in the form of Museum Education at the AACC. She comes to the Center from the DuSable Museum of African American History where she created public programs and designed educational materials and publications for museum visitors. Ms. McCrimon also has extensive experience as a museum researcher/historian. Kay is a graduate of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Radio/Television and a Master of Arts degree in Mass Communication and Media Arts. In addition, she is a graduate of Roosevelt University in Chicago, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Integrated Marketing.

Naima Nguvu-McDermott is the AACC's Extra-Help Community Relations Specialist. She brings years of experience in Non-Profit Administration to her work at the Center. Most notably, she worked as a Program Coordinator in the Arts Education Department of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, NJ, where she built and strengthened relationships with communities and school districts in the Newark metropolitan area to ensure increased access to world-class arts programming. Naima is currently pursuing a degree in Nursing, serves as a doula and has a strong interest in maternal – child health issues.