



2014 – 2015 Annual Report Summary

African-American Cultural Center 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.

Vision Statement

We envision the Center as a dynamic hub for research, collaboration, and educational programming that engages and serves the UIC Campus and the City of Chicago

Methods

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.

**Our activities for Fiscal Year 2015 are summarized below via the following categories:
Exhibitions, Brown Bag Series, Partnerships & Sponsorships, Conferences, Workshops and Presentations**

2014-2015 GALLERY EXHIBITION: UrBs in Horto - August 2014 - August 2015

Summer 2014

- Heritage Garden Interns Meet & Greet, August 12, 2014

Fall 2014

- November 19, 2014, UIC Heritage Garden Interns: "Reusing, Repurposing and Recycling – From Garbage to Artwork", Ian Torres & Piloto (13 attendees)
- Workshop with UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE), December 9, 2014

Spring 2015

- ISEIF Sustainability Interns - Sustainable Practices, Campus Values and Traditions - March 18, 2015

SPRING 2015 EXHIBITION: THE AMERICAN NEGRO EXHIBITION - February -August 2015

- January 22, 2015, "American Negro Exhibition", brown bag Jacqueline Smith (5 attendees) February 5, 2015, "American Negro Exhibition Opening Reception", with Prof. Johari Jabir (17 attendees)
- February 12, 2015, WPA Health: "Iconography of Contagion", brown bag featuring Dr. Ebbin Dotson (9 attendees)
- April 13, 2015, "God's Gang: Stories, Recipes and Crafts", Carolyn Thomas (13 attendees)
- April 20, 2015, "African Americans, Agriculture and Activism", Rev. Dr. Al Sampson & Irvin 'Pop' Ivy (13 attendees)
- Open House for UIC Class of 2015, May 7, 2015

BROWN BAG SERIES

Fall 2014

- September 25, 2014, "Scandal" #AngryBlackWoman, Miriam Petty (10 attendees)
- October 5, 2014, Honey Pot Performance: "Mapping as Archive & Social Justice: Building A People's History of House & Chicago Social Culture", Meida McNeal (12 attendees)
- October 8, 2014, Latino Pre-Medical Student Association: "Surviving the Pre-Med Track as a First Generation College Student". David De La Torre (12 attendees)
- October 15, 2014, Friends of Spartacus: Fight for Socialism", Alan Ruvalcaba (5 attendees)
- October 22, 2014, Trio Upward Bound: "What is Upward Bound?", Charles Collins (6 attendees)
- October 29, 2014, Mexican Students of Aztlan (Mesa): Beyond Struggles", Jocelyn Mungula , (10 attendees)
- November 5, 2014, Talk of the Town Toastmasters: "Communication is Key", Ivory Gwin (8 attendees)
- November 12, 2014, Delta Psi Alpha: "Do You Know the Wolf Pack", Karina Alcalá, (7 attendees)
- December 3, 2014, On Building Community Book Club: "The Global Issues of Police, Privatization of Intelligence Agencies and Increased Militarization Around the World", Albert Murphy (21 attendees)

Spring 2015

- January 15, 2015, "#Community Matters", African American Academic Network (121 attendees)
- January 29, 2015, "People State of the Union", CCSUC (8 attendees)
- February 26, 2015, "Community Archiving", Skyla Hearn (11 attendees)
- March 5, 2015, "Bike Pedestrian Report", Kate Yoshida (9 attendees)
- March 11, 2015, "Black Deaf Culture", Benro Ogunyipe (21 attendees)
- March 19, 2015, "Fearless & Resistance: the Afro-American Experience", with Charles Bethea of the DuSable Museum of African American History and Culture. (15 attendees)
- April 2, 2015, "Urban Public Policy & Fellowship Program", Catalina Nava (3 attendees)

PARTNERSHIPS & JOINTLY SPONSORED EVENTS

Summer 2014

- Freedom Dreams Freedom Now Conference, May 28-30, 2014
- U of I TRiO Upward Bound High School Students Tour, June 20, 2014
- Bronzeville International V, Black Metropolis National Area Commission Convention, August 22, 2014

Fall 2014

- Dr. Baptista presentation to Anthropology 314, Anthropology of Food: Gardening, Seed Keeping, and the Future of Food - September 16, 2014
- Collaboration with the Chancellor's Community on the Status of Blacks, Welcome Reception - September 24, 2014
- Sponsorship - Mojo's Pen - October 22, 2014

Spring 2015

- Community Matters Student Engagement Activities - Collaboration with AAAN - January 15, 2015
- What's Your Top Five Think Tank Breakfast - Collaboration with CHANCE and the AAAN - January 21, 2015
- The People's State of the Union - Collaboration with CCUSC - January 27-29, 2015
- Black Alumni Advisory Council Collaboration, Black Alumni Achiever Awards Luncheon, February 7, 2015
- The Israel Minister for Agriculture and Science Collaboration, February 10, 2015
- Winter Coat Drive Collaboration with Office of Sustainability - February 17 - 2014, 2015
- CPS Social Science Lecture and Workshop Series Collaboration, March 25, 2015
- Collaboration with AAAN - Tour with By The Hand Organization - April 10, 2015
- Collaboration with CHANCE Program, Tour with Muhammad University of Islam, April 14, 2015
- EcoJam on UIC Quad - April 22, 2015
- Sustainability Interns Posters Presentation - April 29, 2015
- UIC Walk With Us ALTour - April 30, 2015
- 2015 Class Soiree, Collaboration with AAAN, TRIO, Urban Health Program, CHANCE, & CCSB, May 1, 2015
- UIC Orientation 2015 Student Orientation Leader Training Collaboration, May 20, 2015

Library

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.

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 DuSable Museum of African-American History

UIC Partnerships & Collaborations

- Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change
- Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks
- College of Education
- Department of Theatre and Music
- Honors College
- Jane Addams Hull House Museum
- Office of the Dean of Students/Student Veterans Affairs
- Office of Sustainability
- Office of Diversity

Community Partnerships & Collaborations:

- Afterschool Matters
- After School Matters: God's Gang
- Chicago Volunteer Doulas
- Project NIA

Chicago Public Schools Site Visits:

- Hull House & The Offices of Literacy and Instructional Supports at CPS Collaboration Tour, July 1, 2014 (7th & 8th graders)
- Hull House & The Offices of Literacy and Instructional Supports at CPS Collaboration Tour, July 15, 2014 (7th & 8th graders)

Local Charter School Site Visits

- Ace Technical Charter High School, February 4, 2015

Conferences, Workshop & Presentations

Engaging Stakeholders to overcome Institutional Barriers to addressing Sustainability Issues

A workshop/presentation for the Sustainability Internship program at UIC

1140 S. Paulina Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Invited Presenter: Dr. Lori Barcliff Baptista

Culturally Specific Birth Experiences: Cultural Competency Training for Chicago Volunteer Doulas

AACC Gallery @ UIC,

Invited workshop facilitator: Dr. Lori Barcliff Baptista

Negotiating Difference: UIC Summer College Seminar

AACC Gallery

Invited Presenter: Dr. Lori Barcliff Baptista