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**FALL 2014 Internship Application**

submission deadline:

Monday, September 15, 2014

The African-American Cultural Center at UIC is seeking interns for the fall of 2014 to assist with a variety of projects that support our mission and goals. We are seeking students with sophomore or higher standing with a strong academic record and the ability to work independently and as a member of a team. Interns should have a strong social justice orientation and an interest in African-American or African-Diaspora culture. Internships are for a minimum of 10 hours per week, for the duration of the fall 2014 semester. Interns will devote 75% of their time to assigned projects and 25% of their time working with AACC staff on public programs, events, and general office support. Applicants must be organized and detail-oriented with exceptional writing and multi-tasking skills. **This is an unpaid internship that may be eligible for credit through your department or college.**

During the 2014-2015 academic year, our programs will be anchored by the following themes:

**Student Organizing & Engagement**

**Student Military Veterans**

**The 1940 American Negro Exposition**

**AfriAfrican-American Environmental Traditions**

**RiteRites of Passage**

**HeaHealth and Wellness**

**WHO WE ARE**

Located within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, the AACC is one of six (6) Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) on the UIC campus. We report to the Office of Diversity, which is headed by the Vice Provost of Diversity and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor.

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.

**MISSION & VISION**

Founded in 1991, the African-American Cultural Center 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 engages students, faculty, staff and community partners who reflect the diverse intellectual and cultural life of UIC and the greater Chicago area to address pressing social justice issues and promote intercultural understanding that leads to social change.

**HOW WE DO IT**

THE AACC uses creative methods or expressions – such as art installations, exhibitions, photography, filmmaking, performance, open-mic poetry gatherings, dance, visual and performing arts workshops, story collecting and story telling projects, the UIC Heritage Garden and a range of mission driven programs and initiatives – to translate academic research and first-voice experiences of the diaspora into creative, informative, engaging and accessible formats.

**A key element of the Center’s approach is our ability to thoughtfully convene and collaborate with a diverse cross-section of stakeholders to humanize the experiences of people from seemingly different backgrounds through “hands-on” and embodied encounters.**

**WHY WE DO IT**

While our primary charge is to engage various communities with issues that relate to people of African descent, our intent is to affirm everyone’s access to equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. The AACC is meant to be a resource for the entire campus.

Please visit our website or the UIC Heritage Garden site for additional program details.

[http://aacc.uic.edu](http://aacc.uic.edu/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

<http://www.uicheritagegarden.org/>

**FALL 2014 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Assessment is a vital part of all of our work. All interns will work closely with the AACC staff to incorporate qualitative assessments (rubrics, surveys, asset maps, etc.) into their project assignments.

**Exhibition and Programming Intern(s)**

Exhibition and programming intern(s) will assist AACC staff and program partners in their efforts to conceptualize, construct and design exhibitions and related programs that reflect the AACC’s mission and goals. We are working on three exhibition related projects this fall: **Urbs in Horto**, **The 1940 American Negro Exposition,** and the **CCA Families Project** (with the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, and Chicago Cultural Alliance partners The Chinese-American Museum of Chicago and the Ethiopian Community Center of Chicago)

Duties may include, but are not limited to:

* painting case interiors, background areas, and exhibit stands for displays
* working with curators and other staff to prepare and mount objects for display in the exhibit
* assisting in developing basic exhibit themes and ideas
* assisting in selecting objects/artifacts for display relevant to the exhibit’s basic theme
* dry mounting photos, lettering, and drawings,
* photographing objects and/or exhibits for exhibition catalogs or the AACC website
* disassembling and/or storing exhibits props (such as panels or stands) and working with curators and other staff to return displayed objects after exhibit,
* cleaning display cases, exhibition, and program areas

Qualifications: creativity and ability to learn exhibition protocols and relevant techniques.

**Research Intern(s)**

Research interns will report to the AACC director, and will focus on one of three main areas:

1. Identifying documents, photographs, objects, images and individuals who contributed to the establishment of the African-American Cultural Center in 1991. Interns will collect stories from actors involved in the process of establishing the Center, assess materials, and write an historical overview for our website and other social media outlets. These materials will be adapted into a number of formats that can serve as the basis for scholarly publications, presentations, documentary film, exhibitions and to engage stakeholders in the work and mission of the AACC.
2. Conducting literature reviews and participating in research activities related to the topic of African Diasporic peoples and nature for **Urbs in Horto**.
3. Conducting literature reviews and participating in research activities related to the topic of Health and Wellness

Research methods include: Conducting literature reviews, identifying and accessing archival materials, participating in asset mapping exercises and creative activities – such as participatory photography, storytelling, arts making and performance.

Qualifications: previous research skills and excellent writing skills.

**FALL 2014 Internship Application**

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE AACC OFFICE, LOCATED IN 209 ADDAMS HALL NO LATER THAN **4:00 PM MONDAY, September 15, 2014.**

**Please be sure to attach the most recent copy of your resume with this application.**

Applicant’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Today’s Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major/Minor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year in college: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation with any campus student organizations: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure to include the name, department and email address of three professional references. At least one must come from a member of the faculty.

Reference #1:

Reference #2:

Reference #3:

Please indicate your internship preference:

**Exhibition and Programming Applied Research**

Briefly describe your experience with 1) intercultural engagement/cultural diversity projects and

2) projects that address issues that impact African/Caribbean/African-American communities or social justice issues.

Please describe your academic and professional assets/skills (e.g. – research, writing, social media, graphic design, pubic event logistics, public speaking, interviewing, proofreading, community organizing, photography/video, exhibition/display curation, database management, assessment, etc.)

Please describe what you would hope to gain from this internship.