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AARCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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**Afro-Amerindian Research
& Cultural Center**

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A Message from the Executive Director



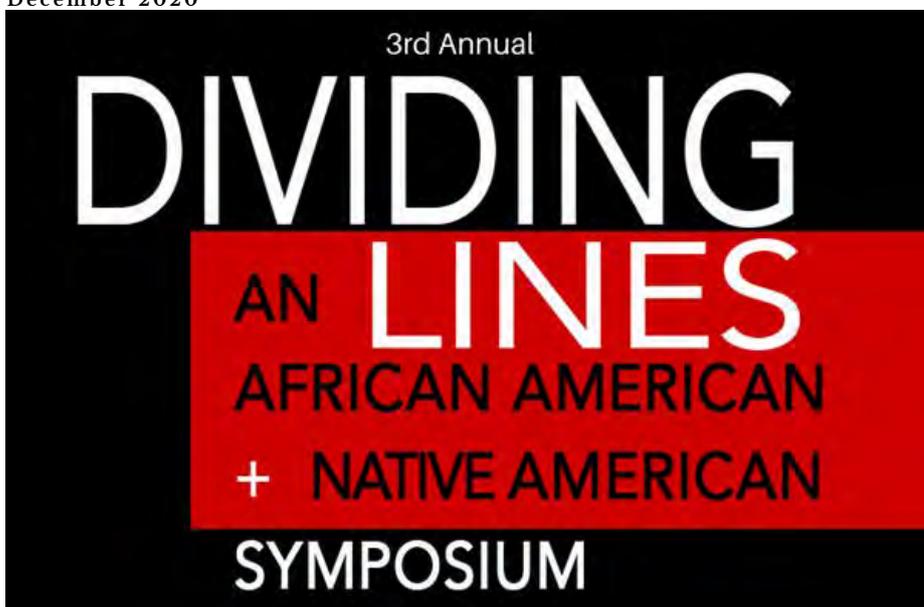
Greetings,

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the third year of the Afro-Amerindian Research & Cultural Center, I am proud to present this as the first issue of our organization's newsletter. Our newsletter will kick off with this issue and will continue on a quarterly basis, providing AARCC's supporters with information of what we're working on and accomplishments.

This year came with its share of tragedy and challenges. We remain hopeful for things to change for the better, and that our organization can contribute to that positive trajectory. I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to this organization's growth and success thus far.

*Steven D. Gayle
Executive Director*

Afro-Amerindian Research & Cultural Center



DIVIDING LINES SYMPOSIUM 2021

Looking Back, and Looking Ahead

The Dividing Lines Symposium has in two years become AARCC's largest collaborative event to date. Hosted at Kennesaw State University for the second year in a row, we were fortunate to showcase a number of presenters hailing from around the world over the course of this two-day exploration of African and Native American diasporas.

This year our Associate Director, Emily Cook facilitated a talking circle and we screened films made by African American and Native American filmmakers. Attendees also participated in a conversation and Q&A with noted educator and businessman Stedman Graham, as well as a musical performance by the Martha Redbone Roots Project.

We were fortunate enough to host our symposium just weeks before widespread lockdowns were instituted. With a significant amount of planning, determination and foresight from AARCC Program Coordinator, Darian Hailes we were able to again execute a successful two-day event despite snow and a looming pandemic.

As we look forward, 2021 holds a new set of a challenges. We intend to adjust our symposium format, but we will still work to continue educating and connecting through our flagship event.



WELCOME OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The center is proud to welcome our newly reconstituted Board of Directors.

The presence of this board will allow us to become a more viable organization and expand on our already impressive list of accomplishments.

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Crystal Arca

Kadura Clark

Mary Lee Jones

Mandy Dawn Nickerson

Keith Vielle

Sean-Paul Walker

AARCC's board will provide us the support and sound guidance in the years to come. With their professional experience and strong community ties, we have a lot of great things to look forward to in the future.

Be sure to visit www.aarccenter.org to learn more about our board.

AARCC ROUNDTABLES



With the recent Covid-19 pandemic sidelining many plans for AARCC, we decided to utilize the time to pilot a series of virtual talks. These roundtable discussions were designed to create space for community members of various backgrounds to

discuss various aspects of African American and Native American life and culture. We began the roundtable series in May discussing strategies in fostering solidarity between communities in the midst of a global pandemic and civil unrest.

We then hosted Beyond Borders, covering social and cultural connections between African and Native communities of the Americas. This was followed by roundtables on genealogy and mental health and finally perspectives on the arts and education.

Sharing Space with Others

The roundtable series is currently on a hiatus; however, we intend to revisit this format in order to foster dialogue, insight and understanding in the future. If you would like to use our platform to host or facilitate a roundtable on a topic, feel free to contact us:

info@aarccenter.org

