



atlanta-fulton public library system

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Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans
Professor and Director
Institute for Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Georgia State University

In recognition of your extraordinary academic contribution to Africana Studies and your demonstrated commitment to creating communal spaces that foster the public explorations into Black histories and the lived Black experience via scholarly research, the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (AARL) would be honored if you would serve as the 2022 (Spring) Annie L. McPheeters Distinguished Scholar Works-in-Progress Lecturer.

The mission of Auburn Avenue Research Library's, Annie L. McPheeters Distinguished Scholar Works-in-Progress Lecture Series is to provide an accessible public platform for the specialized singular work of the selected Africana scholar. These presentations, to be shared over the course of four lectures, will serve as intimate precursor lectures to an anticipated comprehensive future publication. In anchoring this series within a singular academic work in progress, AARL's aim is to expand outlets for the dissemination of Africana research and give non-academic communities, and the general public, a broader understanding, and appreciation for the curation of the scholarly work and its relevance to the contemporary lived experience of Black people.

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History anchors Atlanta's Sweet Auburn Historic District at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Courtland Street. This prominent physical location, in a rapidly gentrifying urban environment, underscores the critical import of AARL's mission as a publicly funded specialized library dedicated to the study and research of the Black Diaspora and Africana culture and history. Part of the Fulton County Library System (FCLS), the AARL is the first public research library in the Southeast to offer specialized reference and archival services dedicated to the history and culture of the Black Diaspora and the lived Black experience. Birthed from the racially segregated Auburn Branch (opened in July 25, 1921), Atlanta's first public library branch for African Americans, the democratization of library services and equitable access to resources is the cornerstone of AARL institutional mission and public mandate.

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History is both circumspect and selective when collaborating with scholars. That being said, our institution holds both you and your scholarship in the highest regard, and sincerely hopes that you receive and accept this honor as an opportunity to curate a unique public platform for engaged communal discourse on Black histories and the lived Black experience.

Please let me know if there is any additional information that I can provide to support you in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris Gardner".

Morris Gardner
Public Services Librarian Principal
Auburn Avenue Research Library, Fulton County Library System
101 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
404-613-4015 (office)