The African-American Resource Center (AARC) is one of the only resource center’s whose primary constituents are faculty and staff. It is a part of the President’s Center and is one of 9 confidential resource offices on Penn’s campus. The mission of the AARC is to enhance the quality of life for faculty, staff, and students at the University of Pennsylvania, with a particular focus on those of African descent.

AARC’s vision is a diverse inclusive community that supports one another by providing innovative and impactful alliances, advocacy, resources, and counseling. Our services include the following:

Services/Amenities/Programs

Services

- Counseling
- Advocacy
- Workshops
- Consultations
- Problem Mediation
- Assistance with Maltreatment in the workplace/grievances
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefings (in response to workplace trauma)
- Serves as advisor to students with code of conduct issues
- Co-sponsor events with schools, centers, and student groups to promote dialogue on race and diversity issues
- Chair the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Symposium on Social Change Executive Committee
- Conduct research impacting those of African descent on campus
- Support the activities of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, the DuBois College House, Makuu, UMOJA and other student organizations

Programs

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Symposium on Social Change

Annually on the 3rd Monday in January the Penn community comes together in memoriam of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with its “Day of Service” kick-off. We consistently attract over 300 volunteers and have a list of projects that include: a day of service breakfast, community beautification projects held at several west Philadelphia schools, and indoor activities that also include: Penn Reads Literacy project, Helping Hands Sock Stuffing project, Pocketful of Toiletries project, Banner Painting project, class of 80”/Sayre Mentoring project, and College
Admissions/Financial Aid project targeted for high school students. All deliverables are donated to area shelters, daycare centers, and other organizations that service underfunded clients.

This commemoration continues with programming and events that usually culminates with our annual “Jazz for King.” We invite on-campus organizations and departments to plan a program in conjunction with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium. Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Day of Service and Symposium will be held on a virtual platform.

**Women of Color at Penn (WOCAP)**

Thirty-three years ago and in the on-going struggle for equity and empowerment, WOCAP was birth as a community of volunteers who come together to celebrate and promote causes that impact women. Whether by the Noontime Network Luncheon series, the Queen’s Tea, the annual awards luncheon, or the Leadership Academy, WOCAP has been in the forefront of ongoing efforts to promote education, cultural diversity, leadership, mentorship, and positive change on campus and in the community. WOCAP has fostered a sense of belonging and has created a supportive space to empower and enhance the many voices and talents of the community that makes up women of color at Penn.

**Men of Color at Penn (MOC)**

The purpose of the Men of Color (MOC) Monthly Meeting (aka The Huddle) is to provide men support in relationship to surviving and thriving at the University of Pennsylvania and affiliates as employees, faculty, artists, activists, community workers, and students. Monthly meetings are convened and opened to the public. Topics are presented within a relaxed atmosphere. Meetings represent a balance between topic speakers and open discussion forum. MOC also discuss methods/strategies of dealing with racism, social-emotional indignities and best practices of addressing abuses of power within the university and community at large.

**Additional Information**

For a complete listing of all AARC, WOCAP, and MOC services, programs, events, and workshops visit: [https://aarc.upenn.edu/about/services](https://aarc.upenn.edu/about/services)

AARC’s physical address: 3643 Locust Walk

Hours: 9am – 5pm (when we return to center)

Phone: 214-898-0104