

#ILDCWorkplaceAndRace

**ILDC Q3 SUBURBAN  
COUNCIL MEETING**  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016  
1:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**11:30** Networking Lunch  
**12:00** Presentation  
**1:00** Closing

**HOSTED BY**



Best Buy  
Territory 4 Office  
1432 Butterfield Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60515



## **When Race Relations Impact Employee Relations – Facilitating Dialog in the Workplace**

Fostering sustainable positive employee relations requires that organizations employ strategies for cross cultural engagement and maintain awareness as to the impact of national and/or local politics in the workplace. We'll explore how businesses can take a leadership role in creating a safe space for dialog on race relations and diversity.



## **Professor Abra Johnson**

Holding an M.A. in Sociology from DePaul University and a B.A. from the University of Illinois in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a concentration in economics, Ms. Johnson is a full-time, tenured faculty member at Malcolm X College. She also teaches a seminar, Racial and Ethnic Groups in the U.S. as a part of the DePaul/Truman College Bridge Program.

Ms. Johnson has several teaching and educational advocacy posts in Chicago, spanning two decades. Her varied educational capacities included positions at DePaul's Center for Community Research, New City YMCA Child development center, Tuesday's Child, Gallery 37 Chicago Summer Arts Program, Northwestern University Settlement Association's Americorps Project Y.E.S. and Wells H.S.

With respect to community engagement, Ms. Johnson has maintained over a decade-long partnership with Honey Pot Performance (HPP), a dance/movement and performance-based company that uses qualitative social science research methods and scholarship in tandem with artistic production practices to investigate and present the social, cultural, and economic experiences of women of color. This collaboration has been an essential part of her continuing education and professional development as a sociologist because it requires me to stay abreast of not only current events, but also contemporary social theory and literature. Their scholarly investigations include literature reviews, interviews, surveys, and writing and reporting, are a critical and core part of our creative praxis.

Ms. Johnson is deeply invested in teaching, utilizing sociology as a toolbox for educational achievement of marginalized populations, and for the ideal of social equity/justice broadly. I also maintain a strong interest in developing experiential skills in applied social research and to study/analyze fields of artistic production relative to social interaction.



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# Illinois Diversity Council Board of Directors

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## Join

People make all the difference in business, community and in the overall quality of life. We believe in the value that each individual provides to the whole. Join the ILDC as we embrace diversity and foster a world based on the celebration of our differences. We offer numerous opportunities for individuals and corporations to get actively involved with the ILDC.

To join, please contact our Membership Chair Crystal Odom, or our coordinator, Lanre Ogunbufunmi to learn about the benefits of membership.

## Contribute

As part our mission to educate our members and share best practices, the ILDC is seeking thought leadership content & best practice case studies from our members and sponsors. Please contact Ray Legler with your contributions.



## SAVE THE DATE

3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Illinois Leadership Conference  
**October 4, 2016**

Inaugural Organizational BRG Roundtable  
**November 30, 2016**

## ILDC Advisory Board

Interested in getting actively involved in the D&I community in Illinois? We are looking for volunteers to contribute their passion and energy to help achieve our mission. Please contact the President with your interest.

[www.illinoisdiversitycouncil.org](http://www.illinoisdiversitycouncil.org)

### President:

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**September 5, 2016**

Labor Day & Celebration of Ganesha

**September 15, 2016**

Beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month

**September 28, 2016**

Teachers Day in Taiwan