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## Thank You from the First Vice President

Now that the National Communication Association 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is wrapped up, I want to thank all of you who made it a uniquely meaningful experience. From the more than 4,200 of you who attended, either virtually or in person, to those of you who joined community spaces and to the community members who joined our convention halls, to the National Office staff (with special recognition to Kristin Yednock, Director of Convention and Meetings) and the hotel staffs at the Marriott and Sheraton who made it all possible, to the Program Planners, the theme consulting group who helped me imagine the convention, to the sponsors, and to the friends and family who supported attendees and staff in ways that made participation possible, thank you!

More broadly, I so appreciate all those who took risks despite previous disappointments to submit papers and panel discussions, organize events and preconference sessions, and connect us in meaningful ways to community. Your risks, labor, and determination made so many members of our discipline feel seen, sometimes for the first time. We have a way to go before we can realize a fully accessible convention and inclusive discipline that so many of us hope to see. I am, however, deeply inspired by those of you who, in the words of our powerful Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture speaker, Dr. Ronald L. Jackson II, are “stand[ing] in the gap” and “show[ing] up to do the work.” I see you, and I thank you.

Now, we look toward the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in National Harbor, MD, where Dr. Marnel Niles Goins’ beautiful theme of “Freedom” invites us to continue moving toward an engaged and liberatory vision of our discipline. I hope to see you all there!

--[Walid Afifi](#), NCA First Vice President, University of California, Santa Barbara

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## 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention: Freedom

The NCA 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be held in National Harbor, Maryland, located in the Washington, DC area, where historical representations of freedom don the nation's capital. Washington, DC is home to the White House, Washington Monument, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Statue of Freedom atop the U.S. Capitol, 17 Smithsonian museums, and numerous other sites, attracting millions of visitors from around the world each year. These historic buildings juxtapose the neighborhoods and people of the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area (DMV), many of whom face inequities that directly contrast the symbols of freedom just miles away. For some, the DMV is a clear representation of freedom. For others, this same area highlights an intense lack of freedom. It is from these divergent places and perspectives that we invite Communication scholars to examine both the meaning and praxis of freedom during the NCA 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Human communication plays a critical role in our understanding of what it means to be free. Through Communication, we determine if we ourselves are free and create our personal and collective journeys to become or remain free. While the idea of freedom has been discussed for centuries and across cultures, central questions remain: What does it mean to be free? Is freedom, simply, the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved? Where do we find freedom and how do we get there? Are we free now? Has freedom been reached in the past? Is freedom a goal of the future? Who is free? The NCA 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention theme challenges participants to interrogate these types of questions through scholarship that represents the diversity of our discipline.

The artwork for the convention was created by Washington, DC native and artist, Kristen Hayes-Campbell. This piece, titled, "Days Well Spent Series #2," overlaps space, movement, and color to demonstrate the freedom of giving life. The artist used acrylic, hand painted collage, and oil pastel to create this work during a time of self-restoration and transformation. Through an array of colors, she represents the hope of what freedom can be. It was important to me to use a piece like this for the Annual Convention, as it allowed me to really envision, in distinct hues, what the 2023 convention could look like.

I invite NCA members and friends to submit papers, panel discussions, posters, and other submissions on the concept of freedom. As Communication scholars, our voices must continue to address and parse out the nuances of what freedom was, is, and can be. Engaging with the concept of freedom allows us to challenge assumptions of what freedom means and offer solutions for individuals, groups, organizations, and societies to attain freedom. I am thrilled to serve as your Second Vice President and plan the NCA 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, and I look forward to your submissions with great anticipation as you interpret "Freedom."

Submissions for the NCA 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will open January 9, 2023. The submission deadline is March 29, 2023. See you in National Harbor, Maryland in 2023!

--[Marnel Niles Goins](#), NCA Second Vice President, Marymount University.

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## Session Recordings

Convention registrants can access session recordings from the NCA 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention until **December 31, 2022**. Step-by-step instructions on how to view the recordings in [NCA Convention Central](#) is available [here](#). Registrants will need to be logged in to their NCA Convention Central account that they used to register for the Annual Convention to view recordings.

The following sessions are available:

- ["A Transnational Conversation about Structural Violence: From New Orleans to Palestine"](#)
- ["Borderland Reckonings: Haunted Spaces and Landscapes of Memory on the Bordered Frontier"](#)
- ["Communicating Being Human Being: The Transformation of the Race Discourse"](#)
- ["Decolonizing the Mind, Liberating the Soul"](#)
- ["Community as Space and Place: Collective Activism and Advocacy by Groups in the Southwest United States \(Competitive Papers\)"](#)
- ["Disability Art on Lockdown; or, Crip World-Making"](#)
- ["Honoring PLACE: Revisiting the Train Tracks Where Plessy v. Ferguson Began and Plessy AND Ferguson Celebrated People, Liberation, Advocacy, and Community"](#)
- ["If We Want to Heal, We Must Tell the Truth: Truth, Reconciliation and Racial Justice in the Midst of Ahistorical Narratives"](#)
- ["Out of Breath: The Communicative Politics of Racialized Breathing"](#)
- ["Publishing Race Scholarship in Communication Studies: Challenges Faced by Scholars of Color and/or International Scholars in the Field"](#)
- ["Rhetoric's Racist Affects"](#)
- ["Spotlight Panel. Honoring Paul Farmer in Health Communication: Centering People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment \(PLACE\) through Critical Health Communication Praxis"](#)
- ["The Accessible Panel Project: Exploring and Practicing Possibilities"](#)
- ["The Role of Community in Community-Based Participatory Research"](#)

## Thank You, Convention Sponsors

Thank you to all the exhibitors, advertisers, and sponsors who contributed to the NCA 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Thank you to the following convention sponsors for your support:

[Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society](#)

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## Networking Lounge

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### NCA Annual Convention Survey

We want to hear from you—whether you attended the 108<sup>th</sup> NCA Annual Convention in-person or virtually. You didn't attend the convention this year? Your comments and opinion still matter to us. Note, the survey includes questions to gauge member interest regarding virtual convention participation.

The goal of the survey is to help shape the future of our conventions and the member experience. All we request is a few minutes of your time to complete a brief survey.

If you have already completed this survey, thank you! We look forward to planning future conventions that support and promote NCA and its members in accordance with our mission. Your feedback is valuable to this process.

Please complete this survey only once, by **December 21**.

Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCA2022Conference>

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