

## NCA 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Call for Participation

“Communication for Survival”  
November 14 – 17, 2019  
Baltimore, Maryland

---

The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Communication Association will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, November 14–17, 2019. The convention theme will be “Communication for Survival.” Baltimore is the perfect place for our convention. Near the early hunting grounds of the Susquehannocks, “The Monumental City” is also mere miles from NCA’s headquarters and the U.S. Capitol. The largest city in Maryland, Baltimore is a city rich with abundant cultural opportunities, educational resources, and a thriving urban space. It is home to the vibrant Mount Vernon neighborhood, just north of downtown, which features fine dining and an exuberant nightlife. It also is home to Fort McHenry, whose defense during the Battle of Baltimore inspired *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Finally, the city is the former home of Freddie Gray, who lost his life while in police custody in April 2015.

A quarter of Baltimore’s residents, including 37 percent of Baltimore’s children, live in poverty. Baltimore had the second highest homicide rate of all U.S. cities in 2015, with the vast majority of those killed being African Americans. Baltimore calls on us as Communication scholars at this point in history to think about one of Communication’s most important roles: helping people survive. Communication for Survival can help inspire us to think about the quotidian ways communication improves lives, helping people build relationships, sustaining communities, changing society for the better, and providing peace of mind. Additionally, the convention theme can encourage us to get to know people living in and around Baltimore; we can ask ourselves “What can we do to help Baltimoreans use communication for survival? What steps can we take to bring Communication for Survival to the lived experiences of our hosts in Baltimore?”

As you are scholars, teachers, students, leaders, and community members, I hope I can count on you to think seriously about ways communication can help people and the planet to survive. In what ways can communication facilitate survival? I imagine convention attendees will be talking about change, Black Lives Matter, U.S.-North Korea relations, health communication, apocalyptic rhetoric, #metoo, driving while black or brown, *homo sacer*, and/or utilitarian and pragmatic approaches to communication. Additionally, the theme might inspire engagement with and innovation of current theoretical scholarship (e.g., social movement theory, theories of social change, neoliberalism, racial microaggressions, biopolitics and necropolitics, racial battle fatigue, queer futurity, integrated communication, negotiation, etc.).

I look forward to seeing you on November 14-17, 2019, at the NCA Annual Convention in Baltimore.

Kent A. Ono  
NCA Second Vice President  
University of Utah