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Letter from the First Vice President

The last few months of working collaboratively to develop programming for the 108th Annual Convention has been exhilarating. It made salient the depth of commitment to a shared vision for our future - on that has NCA in greater connection with all aspects of PLACE. It resulted in Preconferences, sessions, and events that will make the Annual Convention a place for critically important conversations that center community.

Examples from the First Vice President sessions include "Georgetown University Slaves Sold to Louisiana: Interposition and Interpolation of Home, Place, and Community," a session organized by Dorthy Pennington, University of Kansas, that will examine the community created by the Black slaves sold to Louisiana plantations in 1838 by Georgetown University to pay off a debt that might otherwise have bankrupted the university; "Honoring Community: Advocating for Liberation Through Community-Centered Scholarship," which will spotlight scholars whose work is shaped at every stage by community voices and community impact; and a spoken word event, organized by members of the Black Caucus, that will bring community and communication scholar poets together to reflect the ways in which Black rhetoric epitomizes both healing and transgressive communication strategy.

Finally, our work led to the development of a webinar series that will be held on Thursdays (at 3:30 p.m. eastern) for the six weeks leading up to the convention, spotlighting groundbreaking interdisciplinary scholars. Learn more about these sessions and the full convention program when it is available online in July and through our social media channels, and make plans to join us at the NCA 108th Annual Convention for invigorating scholarship and events that celebrate People, Liberation, Advocacy, Community, and Environment!

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

Call for Volunteers

[Volunteer registration](#) for NCA's 108th Annual Convention will open July 18. To be eligible, volunteers must be student members of NCA, and membership must be current through December 1, 2022. In exchange for one complete volunteer shift, with shifts ranging from four to six hours, volunteers will receive complimentary convention registration, which includes access to all convention sessions;

access to the NCA Graduate School Open House and Career Center; a chance to network with professionals in the field; and the opportunity to learn more about the Communication discipline.

Prior to registering as a volunteer, please review your other convention commitments, such as sessions you plan to attend or in which you are presenting. Volunteers are required to complete their shift in full to receive complimentary registration, and they will not be permitted to leave early or arrive late due to other commitments. Please note that complimentary convention registration does not include NCA membership dues. It is recommended that potential volunteers who need to renew their membership do so at least three business days prior to registering as a volunteer to allow their membership to be processed. If you register as a volunteer, do NOT register separately for the convention or pay the registration fee. View more information on the [Volunteer Information](#) webpage.

Enjoy a Dinner at Dooky Chase's Restaurant

During NCA's Annual Convention, a four-course dinner will be hosted at [Dooky Chase's Restaurant](#), a famous Black-owned New Orleans restaurant. Tickets will be available for purchase when convention registration opens in July.

In addition, a limited number of tickets will be made available at no cost for attendees with limited travel funding. To be entered into the complimentary ticket pool, complete [this form](#) by today. Please note that you must complete the form by today (June 15) to be considered for this opportunity.

Those selected will be notified by no later than June 25 and those not selected will be able to purchase tickets for the event when convention registration opens.

Department Events

The NCA Annual Convention offers several opportunities to promote your department and celebrate its successes over the past year. Department Members of NCA qualify for discounted registration for these department events.

- **Advertising:** Share your latest departmental news and achievements by advertising in the convention program. NCA is now accepting applications for its 108th Annual Convention print program. Advertisements and payment are due by **August 18**. Departments that pay for a print program ad by July 1 will receive a complimentary digital ad in the NCA online program.
- **Graduate School Open House:** The Graduate School Open House is a great way for colleges and universities to interact with prospective graduate and doctoral students. The Open House will take place Thursday, November 17, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Every department that registers for the Graduate School Open House will be provided with a booth where faculty members and current students can speak with prospective students, as well as field general questions about admissions and their department. Due to the popularity of this event, space is sure to sell out, so register early!
- **Job Fair:** College and university departments that have open positions can reserve a booth to meet and interview individuals looking for their next career opportunity. Every department that registers for the Job Fair will be provided with a booth that allows them to showcase open positions and their college or university. The Job Fair will be held in conjunction with the NCA Career Center on Friday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.-noon. From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., following a one-hour lunch break, employers may invite candidates back for an opportunity to speak one-on-one in their booth.
- **Department Receptions:** Department Receptions are a wonderful opportunity to bring together current and past colleagues. NCA offers meeting space for departments to host their own receptions. NCA will assign an event space, and then departments can work directly with the catering manager to plan the perfect event. Registration for reception space will open in July.
- **Sponsorships:** Support the NCA Annual Convention and promote your department, college, or university. Sponsorships present a unique opportunity to connect with all attendees. NCA is open to new sponsorship ideas; each sponsorship is a collaboration.

Hotel and Travel Information

Hotel reservations are [now open](#). This year, there will be a discounted early bird hotel reservation rate until August 15. Discounted student hotel rooms will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hotel rooms will be available at the New Orleans Marriott and the Sheraton New Orleans. The hotels are directly across the street from each other but are not connected via a skybridge. There will be sessions held at both hotels; the exhibit hall and NCA registration area will be located in the New Orleans Marriott. For more information, including reservation links and travel resources, please visit the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) webpage.

Green Initiatives

The city of New Orleans has increased its efforts around sustainability, energy efficiency, and developing green infrastructure. Recently, the city launched a Solar for All campaign to support solar installations on single family homes; hosted an energy challenge for downtown buildings; and provided training on energy management for commercial and multifamily properties. The city has also developed a green infrastructure program that uses native plants to create community-scaled resilient urban landscapes. Read more [here](#).

Our event host company, Marriott, has launched Serve 360 which, in part, addresses environmental sustainability within the company. Read more [here](#).

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