Tracks for 2018 Saving Ourselves Symposium

1. Social Justice
This category invites presenters whose work address the environmental factors associated with increased HIV infection rates, especially among U.S. Black gay males and transgender individuals. While it could be argued that the high rates of HIV for U.S. Black gay males and transgender individuals point to overwhelming injustices in the political, healthcare, and economic arenas, the continued and longstanding survival and well-being of this community can be viewed as a social justice issue. Abstracts submitted under this category should highlight the steps taken to create a system ensuring equal access to the information, insurance, prevention, care, treatment, and resources that U.S. Black gay males and transgender individuals encounter on a regular basis. Emphasis can also be placed on social justice issues that impact Black LGBTQ people largely such as mass incarceration, poverty and reproductive justice, just to name a few.

2. HIV and other Health Disparities
This category invites presenters who will provide information, strategies, and techniques used to address HIV and other Health Disparities within their respective neighborhoods, and/or communities. Presentations in this category should assist practicing service providers and service users in understanding the cultural, political, economical, and religious barriers that have helped to create possible, and current, responses to the continued HIV and other Health Disparities epidemic.

3. Clinical, Research and Public Education
This category invites presenters who combine clinical, research, and public education methods from a critical experience as a way of creating interdisciplinary dialogues on the issues affecting U.S. Black gay males and transgender individuals. This category should also consider how current U.S. initiated policies may be affecting treatment access, retention in care, viral load suppression, and continued engagement with healthcare providers.

4. Community Mobilization and Culture
This category invites presenters who will help participants understand the multiple aspects of mobilization and cultural understandings. Abstracts submitted under this category should plan to engage in conversations that address media representations of U.S. Black gay males, lesbians, queer and transgender individuals as either passive or complicit victims or aggressive perpetrators of HIV related crimes and infections. Also, this category invites presentations that focus on the cultural practices of U.S. Black gay males, lesbians, queer and transgender individuals, especially those who engage in activities that positively impact their jurisdictional communities. This track will also look at religion, spiritually, ballroom scene, just to name a few.