ABOUT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For five decades, the CMF Annual Conference has been the largest gathering of philanthropy in the state. Each year this event has featured inspiring thought leaders, relevant and robust programming, and deep peer collaboration and networking opportunities. In 2022 we will come together for the CMF 50th Annual Conference – a milestone gathering where we will celebrate our community of philanthropy and kick off a yearlong 50th Anniversary jubilee as we look to the future and the next five decades of excellence in leadership.

The Annual Conference serves as a critical gathering point for our field, a time for reflection and for reimagination for the road ahead. The Annual Conference has also marked key steps in our shared equity journey over the past several years.

In 2019, the 47th Annual Conference theme was Equity. Impact. Partnerships. with equity in particular as a driving focus. At the end of that conference, CMF expressed a clear commitment to continue the dialogue on equity, building up to our 48th Annual Conference and beyond. The 2020 Annual Conference, Building Inclusive Environments: Together on the Journey, did just that. Our Michigan community of philanthropy came together in a high-impact virtual format over eight days for not only professional development and community connection opportunities, but a series of action-oriented conversations centered on bold leadership through crisis, including philanthropy’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and renewed racial justice efforts. Our journey continued into 2021 with a second fully-virtual conference as we created space to go deeper into the most critical and relevant issues in our field with a focus on Connecting Diverse Voices and opportunities to advance equitable systems change.

In 2022, we will come together for celebration, conversation, connection and collaboration, all grounded in our commitment to pave pathways for diversity, equity and inclusion while lifting up best practices and emerging opportunities to strengthen our community’s grant craft, deepen leadership, build capacity, enhance our policy and advocacy efforts to support thriving communities and cultivate new and meaningful partnerships.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
CMF’s Call for Proposals, sourced from thought leaders in Michigan and around the country, informs and shapes our conference learning lineup. Staff and trustees from CMF member foundations – as well as regional and national philanthropy and nonprofit partners – are invited to design and submit a session for consideration.

Codesign the 50th Annual Conference with us!

TIMELINE AND SELECTION
The 2022 Call for Proposals is open now through March 4. Proposals will be accepted via our online submission form available here. A document showing questions included on the form is available on the conference webpage and is linked below. Only one proposal is needed per session concept; multiple speakers can be identified on a single form.

Approximately 25-30 sessions will be selected for presentation at the Annual Conference. Session submissions will be peer reviewed by the Annual Conference Program Committee. All notifications will be made in May.

SESSION DESIGN
The Annual Conference Program Committee seeks dynamic sessions in our 2022 conference learning lineup that meet the following goals:

• Session content will be grounded in a commitment to equity and inclusive diversity.
• Sessions will offer thought-provoking content and deepen understanding of the latest knowledge, trends and issues facing the philanthropic sector, with a vision toward the future of our field. For example, we welcome submissions featuring case studies and fresh insights on innovative and emerging practices.
• Presenters will be diverse in their backgrounds and lived experience and will bring diverse views and perspectives. Sessions will help lift the voices of those in philanthropy and from the communities in which CMF members serve.
• Sessions will be interactive and engaging, considering adult learning principles.
• Sessions will feature thought leadership that inspires attendees and ignites our thinking, and will provide attendees with takeaways, tools and techniques to implement in their own work. Sessions may infuse opportunities for specific individual or collective action, as well.
• Sessions will create space for attendees to network, form lasting relationships and build trust; they will encourage candid transparency and sharing.
• The final schedule will provide a variety of learning opportunities for our community of philanthropy in terms of their roles, regions, size and foundation type and will intentionally create space for cross-sharing and learning of new concepts to grow your own practice.
HOSTING THE 2022 CONFERENCE IN GRAND RAPIDS

The CMF 50th Annual Conference is slated to be held in person in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Session presenters will be asked to present on site, in person. To support the health and safety of all, CMF may require all attendees to be fully vaccinated. It is possible a select number of sessions may be opened as a hybrid learning opportunity so that virtual conference attendees can engage via livestream. Any questions about the conference design can be sent to Andrea Judd-Shurmur at ajudd@michiganfoundations.org.

CONTENT NOTES

Our Strategic Framework “Equity at the Center” serves as our compass, providing clarity in our purpose and a bold new direction rooted in our vision for a thriving philanthropic sector leading in the relentless pursuit of equitable systems and inclusive diversity. The core priorities of Equity, Policy, Practice and People will serve as a guide as we build our 2022 conference programming. During submission of your proposal, you will be asked to address how equity has been centered in your session and identify which of the remaining pillars (Policy, Practice or People) most closely aligns with your session content. Examples are included below to provide clarity and help inspire your thinking.

Please note these are examples only. We look forward to welcoming many other session ideas connected to these priority areas.

- **Equity**: CMF seeks to embolden and equip Michigan philanthropy in the relentless pursuit of equitable systems and the embrace of inclusive diversity. All session proposals should be grounded in equity as we strive to address systemic oppression and ensure all people have the opportunity to experience success and well-being. During the CFP submission process, you will be asked to identify the equity implications of your session; you will have the opportunity to identify one additional pillar as listed below.

- **Policy**: CMF seeks to fortify the field through public policy action, and champion the policy leadership of CMF members. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could share new policy activity or research about an issue area where Michigan philanthropy is engaged (i.e. education, health, civic engagement). As another example, a proposal could educate participants on best practices and lessons learned when engaging in advocacy activities or offer thought leadership in policy strategy and mobilization efforts to effect transformative systems change.

- **People**: CMF seeks to foster the growth and development of current and future philanthropy leaders. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could help to advance knowledge sharing and leadership development for philanthropists, from youth leaders to seasoned executives. This could range from a workshop for those new to the field, or an interactive peer exchange space that supports long-time managers in honing inclusive leadership practices. A session in this area could also feature ways that trustees and executives can effectively partner to advance the organization’s mission.

- **Practice**: CMF seeks to advance and amplify exemplary philanthropic practices and field expertise. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could focus on legal, finance and operations content, grant craft, program and issue area knowledge or matters of governance. Sessions could share
information about successful funder collaboratives, discuss new practices in impact investing or help participants build more effective evaluation techniques.

**Topic Areas**

We welcome and anticipate receiving session ideas around a wide range of topics relevant to the field of philanthropy. The following list features examples of key issue areas and topics that have emerged through CMF affinity groups, learning communities, and policy and advocacy efforts.

- Aging and Caregiving
- Arts and Culture
- Defense of the Nonprofit Sector
- Economic Prosperity
- Education
- Environment
- Health (physical, mental, behavioral)
- Justice Reform
- Nonprofit Capacity Building
- Social Safety Net
- Racial Equity
- Rural Philanthropy
- Workforce Development
- Youth Leadership and Development

**Note:** In addition to issue-specific sessions, CMF is very interested in receiving proposals that resonate for a variety of cross-sections of our Michigan community of philanthropy – across experience levels, job roles, regions, foundation type and foundation size. As part of our program development process for the 50th Annual Conference we will be exploring deepened conference learning opportunities for foundation trustees, those new to the field and those new to executive leadership.

**Additional Information**

- Sessions are currently being scheduled in 75-minute slots. We may have a small number of extended workshop opportunities. If you have an idea that would fit best within an extended session format you will have the ability to indicate this on the Call for Proposal application form. CMF will develop the final schedule (including date, time and length of selected sessions) with input from the Program Committee.

- Session speakers are expected to cover any presenter fees or other expenses for sessions they propose. As part of our commitment to putting equity at the center, some resources are available for speakers who come from organizations with constrained budgets to ensure cost is not a barrier to participate in this leadership opportunity.