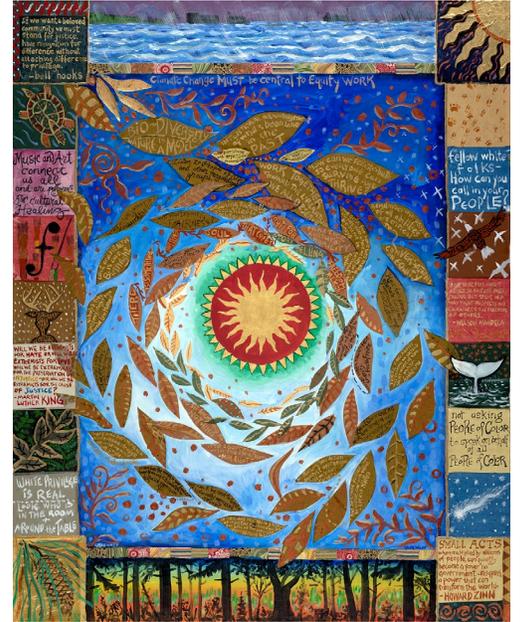


ABOUT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For nearly five decades, the CMF Annual Conference has been the largest gathering of philanthropy in the state. Each year this event features inspiring thought leaders, relevant and robust programming, and deep peer collaboration and networking opportunities.

The Annual Conference serves as a critical gathering point for our field, a time for reflection and for reimagining for the road ahead. In 2019, the 47th Annual Conference theme was *Equity. Impact. Partnerships.* with equity in particular as a driving focus. Breakout sessions and main stage keynotes invited us to challenge our thinking. A central conversation space welcomed reflections on our understanding of equity and inspired the creation of a one-of-a-kind painting, “The Nature of Equity,” designed by local artists. The conference featured Native American colleagues in philanthropy with programming on tribal partnerships, storytelling through dance and music, and an impactful opening address from Sarah Eagle Heart, a champion of philanthropy and social change.

At the end of that conference, CMF expressed a clear commitment to continue our shared 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. Week 1 featured a series of professional development offerings and community connection opportunities, as well as an emerging practitioner workshop and interactive deep dive on the social determinants of health. Week 2 featured action-oriented conversations centered on bold leadership through crisis, including philanthropy’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and renewed racial justice efforts. There were powerful main stage keynotes, an array of collaborative events and a revamped Annual Members Meeting and Community Celebration, as well as an all-new workshop for foundation trustees.



Our journey continues into 2021. Together in this Annual Conference we will create space to go deeper into the most critical and relevant issues in our field, asking questions and inviting conversation that challenges our thinking, inspires our action and brings us together as a community committed to equitable systems change.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CMF's Call for Proposals, sourced from thought leaders in Michigan and beyond, 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 submit a session for consideration.

Let's build the 49th Annual Conference together!

TIMELINE AND SELECTION

The 2021 Call for Proposals is open now through March 5. [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 CMF Annual Conference Program Committee. All notifications will be made by early May.

SESSION DESIGN

The Annual Conference Program Committee seeks dynamic sessions in our 2021 conference learning lineup that meet the following goals:

- Sessions will offer thought-provoking content and deepen understanding of the latest knowledge, trends and issues facing the philanthropic sector.
 - Session content will be grounded in a commitment to equity.
 - 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 also provide attendees with takeaways, tools and techniques to implement in their own work.
 - Sessions will feature formats and activities that create space for attendees to network, form lasting relationships and build trust; they will encourage candid transparency and sharing.
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- 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.

CONTENT NOTES

CMF's new Strategic Framework **"Equity at the Center"** was introduced at the 48th Annual Conference. The framework 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 2021 conference programming. During submission of your proposal, you will be asked to identify which of these four pillars 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. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could highlight a foundation's internal or external equity journey or explore ways in which Michigan philanthropy can help build equitable systems. Session proposals could also highlight specific initiatives to advance diversity, create inclusive environments or host related conversations in your community.
 - **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 programs or initiatives led or supported by foundations to advance capacity building for nonprofit partners, or 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, program and issue area grant craft or matters of governance. Sessions could share
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information about successful funder collaboratives, discuss ways to increase impact or help participants build more effective application and evaluation techniques.

Note: CMF is interested in receiving proposals that resonate across 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 49th Annual Conference we will be exploring deepened conference learning opportunities in particular for foundation trustees, those new to the field and those new to executive leadership.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Sessions may be 60-, 75- or 90 minutes long, with a small number of extended workshop opportunities. CMF will develop the final schedule (including date, time and length of selected sessions) with input from the Program Committee based on the final slate of sessions. If your proposal is selected, you will be asked to indicate your preferred session length.
- 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, limited resources are available for speakers who come from organizations with constrained budgets to ensure cost is not a barrier to access this leadership opportunity. (This includes travel support if the conference can be safely offered in person, addressed on a case-by-case basis.)

Questions? Please connect with Andrea Judd-Shurmur, director of Learning Services at CMF:
ajudd@michiganfoundations.org.
