

Co-Create the CMF 51st Annual Conference: Submit a Session Concept During the 2023 Call for Proposals!

On November 6-8, 2023, we will gather in Detroit for the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) 51st Annual Conference, a culmination of our shared year-long 50th Anniversary celebration and a time to look ahead to the next five decades of excellence in leadership. We hope you will join your Michigan philanthropy peers at this exceptional gathering and invite you to submit a session concept through the Call for Proposals!

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.

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, most notably, a clear commitment to and action toward advancing equitable systems change.

We began the year-long celebration of CMF's 50th Anniversary of service to Michigan philanthropy during the 2022 Annual Conference. Convening in person in 2022 – after two years of virtual conferences – our time in Grand Rapids was filled with renewed energy and enthusiasm about connecting, learning and committing to our equity journey.



Coming together in Detroit in the fall of 2023, we will engage as a community for conversation, connection and collaboration, grounded in CMF's commitment to embolden and equip members in the relentless pursuit of equitable systems and inclusive diversity, fortify the field through public policy action, foster the growth of current and future philanthropy leaders, and advance exemplary philanthropic practices and field expertise.

Session proposals can be submitted online at <https://forms.gle/q1RcvWzcn26p7T5X6>.

2023 Call for Proposals

Staff and trustees from CMF member foundations – as well as philanthropy and nonprofit partners around the country – are invited to design and submit a session for consideration as a program offering at the upcoming CMF Annual Conference.

TIMELINE AND SELECTION

Submissions for the 2023 Call for Proposals will be accepted via our online submission form available here:

<https://forms.gle/q1RcvWzcn26p7T5X6>.

A document showing questions included on the form is available on the conference webpage, linked below:

<https://www.michiganfoundations.org/practice/annual-conference>.

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 schedule is designed to feature a variety of robust learning opportunities so that all in our community of philanthropy can identify content relevant to them – across roles, foundation size and type – along with opportunities for cross-sharing and new connections. The Annual Conference Program Committee is seeking dynamic sessions that meet the following goals:

- Session content will be grounded in a commitment to equity and inclusive diversity. Sessions will help amplify the voices of individuals across philanthropy and from the communities CMF members serve.
- Across all sessions, presenters will be diverse in their backgrounds, lived experience and perspectives and diverse in organization role, region, size and foundation type.
- Sessions will offer thought-provoking content with a lens toward the future and strengthening the field, deepening attendees' understanding of the latest field data and trends, promising practices, emerging issues, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and beyond.
- Presenters will be encouraged to share not only successes from their own work and their completed efforts, but to also candidly share challenges, efforts in progress and early findings.
- 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.
- Sessions will create space for attendees to network, form lasting relationships and build trust.

Any questions about the Call for Proposals can be sent to Jen Ruud at jruud@michiganfoundations.org.

HOSTING THE CONFERENCE IN DETROIT / IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The CMF 51st Annual Conference will be held live, in person at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan.

- Sessions are currently being scheduled in 75-minute slots. We anticipate also offering a number of extended workshops as well as immersive (experiential, off-site) opportunities. If you have an idea that would fit best within an extended session format you will have opportunity to indicate this on the submission form. The final schedule (including date, time and length of selected sessions) will be developed with input from the Annual Conference Program Committee.
- In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and as we continue to prioritize the health and well-being of attendees, staff, volunteers and the local community, session presenters will be required to follow all event health and safety protocols.
- If your session is accepted, at least one speaker will be required to attend/view a virtual 30-minute conference orientation.
- Conference speakers are required to register themselves for the conference. We hope all speakers join us for the full conference experience, but speakers planning to attend their session only will have the option of choosing that option during registration. 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 of our work and designing an inclusive conference experience, limited resources are available to support the participation of speakers from nonprofit organizations with constrained budgets to ensure cost is not a barrier to engage in this leadership opportunity.
- Direct solicitations in presentations and at the conference are not permitted.

SESSION CONTENT / EQUITY AT THE CENTER

Our Strategic Framework “Equity at the Center” serves as our compass, providing clarity in our purpose and a bold 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 2023 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 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.

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- **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, for example, share examples of foundation efforts to develop relationships and engage with local policymakers; lift up research about an issue area important to Michigan philanthropy (i.e., health, environment, civic engagement); educate participants on best practices when engaging in advocacy activities; or share a case study on local collaborative 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, for example, feature ways that trustees and executives can partner to advance the organization’s mission; serve as an interactive peer exchange space for single-staff foundations; highlight approaches to promoting self-care among employees; share examples of how youth are being engaged in the foundation’s work or how foundations can create leadership opportunities for emerging practitioners.
- **Practice:** CMF seeks to advance and amplify exemplary philanthropic practices and field expertise. Session proposals submitted in this priority area could, for example, focus on legal, finance and operations content; offer case studies or examples of equity-centered shifts in foundation grantmaking; share program and issue area knowledge; address key matters of governance for trustees; discuss collaborative approaches in impact investing; offer effective learning and 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, policy and advocacy efforts, and beyond.

- Aging and Caregiving
- Arts and Culture
- Civil Discourse
- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Defense of the Nonprofit Sector
- Development / Donor Engagement
- Economic Prosperity
- Education
- Emerging Leader Engagement
- Environment
- Finance and Investment
- Gender Equity
- Grantmaking / Grant Craft
- Health (physical, mental, behavioral)
- Governance
- Impact Investing
- Inclusion & Disability Advocacy
- Justice Reform
- Learning & Evaluation
- Nonprofit Partnerships; Capacity Building
- Operations
- Social Safety Net
- Racial Equity / Race & Ethnicity Equity
- Rural Philanthropy
- Socioeconomic Equity
- Technology
- Trustee Development & Engagement
- Workforce Development
- Youth Leadership and Development

Note: We are interested in receiving proposals that resonate for a variety of cross-sections of our Michigan community of philanthropy – across experience levels, roles, regions, foundation type and size, and beyond.

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