

GREAT MICHIGAN Gathering

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Gathering Partner?

Gathering Partners are Michigan organizations that have registered to bring Great Michigan Gathering programming to their community. Programming is focused on gathering community members and building connections between Michiganders. It is free to register as a partner and all programming is shared free of cost. The first program is our Great Michigan Gathering Kickoff Event featuring Priya Parker, happening October 8 at The Henry Ford Museum. Partners are invited to attend in-person or encouraged to host watch parties of the event livestream for their communities.

What is a watch party?

A watch party is an event hosted by a Gathering Partner to allow community members to view an in-person event in a virtual capacity. Think of it as inviting a group to watch a movie, but instead you're watching the Great Michigan Gathering kickoff event livestream.

What do I need to host a watch party?

All you need to host a watch party is a connection to the internet, a screen for displaying the event livestream, and a space for people to gather.

How can I attend the October 8 event?

You can attend the October 8 kickoff event by registering [here](#). This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

How many events do Gathering Partners have to commit to?

You can register as a Gathering Partner without committing to hosting any watch parties. By becoming a partner you receive resources and information about upcoming Great Michigan Gathering programming.

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Can I host a watch party for the October 8 event after that date?

Please reach out to eschlenner@mihumanities.org if you are unable to host a watch party on October 8. We may be able to work with your organization to provide an access link to the livestream recording.

Can I watch the kickoff event livestream at home?

Unfortunately, there is not a way for individuals to join remotely. Due to our contract with our special guest, there are restrictions set by the publisher in regard to the recording and broadcasting of her events. We had to obtain special permission to offer the livestream to a select number of organizations, and we are not allowed to offer a wider distribution.

When do Gathering Grants open?

Gathering Grants open November 2, 2026.

What can I use Gathering Grants for?

Gathering Grants can be used for a project that encourages gathering in your community. We encourage projects using a variety of public humanities formats, including but not limited to: reflective conversations, reading series, film screenings with discussions, walking tours, public lectures, and the creation of exhibits.

Who is eligible to receive a Gathering Grant?

The applicant organization must be a nonprofit authorized to operate in the state of Michigan. The organization need not be incorporated and may be a public agency. Individuals are not eligible.