

February 20, 2023



Dear Community Partner,

The 8th Annual Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit is on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at GRCC Tassell M-TEC Center, and you're invited! Please mark your calendar and consider supporting this transformational day-long learning experience centered around Summit's core values of resident voice and racial equity.

Summit brings Grand Rapids residents and stakeholders together to learn, strategize, and connect to strengthen neighborhoods and belonging in community, with the overall goal to make Grand Rapids a more equitable place to live, work and play. This year's theme is *Co-Creating Belonging* with workshops aligned to local efforts and strategies that foster belonging, and topics on the social and political determinants of health. This theme is inspired by resolutions declaring racism as a public health crisis in Grand Rapids and Michigan, and by our community's desire to undo racism, heal the harm it causes, and advance welcoming together.

Summit continues to be the most diverse learning event in Grand Rapids across race, ethnicity, gender identity, and age, and appreciation for this inclusive space consistently ranks as one of the top themes of event evaluations each year. One way Summit lives out its values is by partnering with diverse and local businesses. In 2022, 86% of expenses were spent with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) owned businesses and 96% was spent with businesses located within Grand Rapids.

Part of the magic of Summit is bringing people together from all walks of life, backgrounds, lived experience, 33 neighborhoods and from so many different sectors ranging from corporations to grassroots movements, from early childhood to higher education, from government, business to nonprofits. Additional 2023 highlights include:

- Keynote experience
- 18+ workshops
- Dozens of resource tables
- Traditional Anishinaabe opening and closing
- Childcare for children, infants through age 5
- Kids Summit for children, age 6 to 12 (intentional childcare so their guardians could attend Summit)
- Wellness activities and strategies from hand sanitizers and face mask distribution to facilitated yoga and a curated quiet space should anyone need a low sensory relaxing place
- Community Celebration featuring local music ensemble & BIPOC Night Market, and words of appreciation for all whom make Summit special – attendees, volunteers, sponsors, presenters and more!

This year, we expect to host 400 people, and we need your support to continue making this learning and community-building event free and accessible to community. Please consider being a sponsor, attending and following us on Facebook @GRNeighborhoodSummit. Additional information can be found at www.grandrapidsmi.gov/summit. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please email us at summit@grcity.us.

Sincerely,

Stacy Stout, Director of Equity and Engagement



Office of Equity
and Engagement
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

As a sponsor of the 2023 Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit, you are helping to ensure access for all people by covering expenses so that registration can remain free. Examples of what your donation for the May 20th event will support:

- Accessibility and inclusion strategies such as ASL and Spanish interpretation, technology support for engaging virtual participants, sound amplification, all gender hospitality baskets in restrooms, wayfinding signage, transportation assistance, and transformation of a space for private nursing. Summit is a breastfeeding friendly environment in all spaces. The private nursing room is offered so parents have options based on their comfort.
- Kids Summit for children to engage with art, culturally representative reading, and hands-on activities featuring local museums, animal organizations and youth organizations. Kids Summit also increases access for parents who need childcare to attend Summit.
- Licensed childcare services for younger children.
- Community Celebration that replaces the traditional VIP reception for sponsors, and is for all who make Summit special...sponsors, volunteers, attendees and more. The Celebration immediately follows Summit across the street at Roberto Clemente Park and includes music, dancing, appetizers, refreshments, BIPOC Night market featuring vendors, and more!
- Nourishment in the morning and afternoon to support day-long learning.
- Printed materials to help attendees navigate the many learning options available.
- Conference bags sourced locally from a women-owned business, Public Thread, that transforms waste materials such as billboards into sustainable durable reusable bags.
- Compensation for keynote speakers and other talent.

Part of equity work is to disrupt practices that perpetuate power imbalances. That's why we've shifted away from a sponsorship model based on tiered benefits. We know our community is very generous, our supporters have different giving capacities, and that we all have a common goal to transform our community and mindsets to be more inclusive. All donations are needed, appreciated, and go toward advancing the purpose and values of the Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit.

All sponsors will be recognized for their contributions. Examples of recognition include, but are not limited to:

- Acknowledgement on Summit webpage and Facebook page
- Logo on sponsor banner and signage at Summit
- Logo listed in the printed program
- Acknowledgement on screen during opening and closing ceremonies

If you would like to support Summit, we ask that donation pledges, logos and information on this form are received by April 1, 2023 via summit@grcity.us to ensure your organization receives full sponsorship benefits.

Checks can be made payable to: City of Grand Rapids, and mailed to Stacy Stout, City of Grand Rapids, 300 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 495, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Please indicate payment is for the Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit. Logos are needed in .jpeg format for social media and in Portable Network Graphic (.png) or Adobe Illustrator Artwork (.ai) format for print and digital materials.

Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Organization Website: _____

Organization Facebook & Twitter Handles: _____

Please select a suggested giving amount from below or write in your preferred amount: \$ _____

Suggested Giving Amounts: \$20,000 \$15,000 \$10,000 \$7,000 \$5,000 \$3,000 \$1,000