

February 18, 2022



GRAND RAPIDS
NEIGHBORHOOD
SUMMIT

Dear Community Partner,

The 8th Annual Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit is on Saturday, May 21, 2022, 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 for all to live, work and play. This year's theme is *Building Equitable and Healthy Communities* with workshops aligning to topics on the social and political determinates of health. This theme was inspired in part by the recent resolutions declaring racism as a public health crisis in Grand Rapids and Michigan, and by our community's desire to undo racism and heal the harm it causes.

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 2021, 78% of expenses were spent with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) owned businesses and 85% was spent with businesses located within Grand Rapids. The new Summit Marketplace featured 33 BIPOC-owned businesses as part of the Summit closing celebration to increase awareness, clientele base and help with business resiliency during this difficult time. It was extremely successful and will return and expand in 2022.

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 and business to nonprofits. To maintain that synergy and be safe, we plan to host approximately 500 in-person attendees which is less than half capacity of the GVSU campus where it will be held. We will also have an on-line option for a limitless number of virtual attendees. Creative engagement and relationship building strategies will be implemented for both virtual and in-person spaces. We also moved the date to May with the hopes of warmer weather to have some activities outdoors. Additional 2022 highlights include teen track of workshops, the return of Kids Summit for our five to 12-year-olds, and a separate *Summit Marketplace Park Party* event on July 16th at Garfield Park featuring family activities, BIPOC vendors, City and community resource tables and engagement opportunities.

To keep registration free and to implement COVID-19 safety precautions such as the hybrid virtual model, we need your support. 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



As a sponsor of the 2022 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 21st 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.
- Community Celebration that replaces the traditional VIP reception for sponsors. The Community Celebration is for all who make Summit special...sponsors, volunteers, attendees and more! The Celebration immediately follows Summit at the same location and includes music, dancing, appetizers, refreshments, a photo booth, and more!
- Nourishment in the morning and afternoon to support day-long learning.
- Print and digital program book 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 are shifting 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:

- Invitation to host a resource table at the Summit in the Park event on Saturday, July 16, 2022.
- Acknowledgement on Summit webpage and Facebook page
- Logo on sponsor banner and signage at both Summit events (May 21 & July 16)
- Logo listed in the print and digital program book for the May 21 event
- Acknowledgement on screen during opening and closing ceremonies at the May 21 event

If you would like to support the 2022 Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit, please return this form, or email the information to summit@grcity.us by April 1, 2022.

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

We ask that donations, logos and information on this form are received by April 1, 2022, 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.