Signature Events

**133rd Annual Meeting: Opportunity Awaits**  
*Tuesday, January 26*

At this year’s Annual Meeting, we are motivating the community to engage and charge ahead because Opportunity Awaits. We have much to be proud of, but we need to look ahead to the future. Attendees will hear how they can engage with the Opportunity Awaits West Michigan campaign, as well as the Grand Rapids Chamber. Let’s get to work!

**Health Care Summit**  
*Tuesday, March 23*

The Health Care Summit is a popular half-day event featuring health care leaders and reform experts who present facts on the future of health care and share options for businesses. Join fellow members to explore the latest health care trends, the impact of health care policy, rule changes at the state and federal level, ways to reduce and contain costs as well as what needs to be done in order to build a healthier community.

**2021 West Michigan CEO Summit**  
*Tuesday, June 22*

Join over 600 West Michigan Leaders at the 2021 West Michigan CEO Summit. This unique event features a lineup of regional leaders covering topics including culture, mentorship, leadership, talent, strategic planning, industry trends and how to gain traction in your business. Panel discussions and keynote presentations will focus on tools for business growth to help accomplish goals and compete at a higher level.

**The Chamber Open**  
*Monday, July 19*

Watermark Country Club

The Chamber Open is one of the most popular annual events on the Chamber’s calendar. The event attracts a wide range of decision makers and community leaders while providing an opportunity to play eighteen holes of remarkable golf.
32nd Annual ATHENA Awards Celebration
*Thursday, September 30*
**Finalist Reception: September 23**

Every year we gather to **CELEBRATE** those who embody, encourage, and promote the inclusion of women. The ATHENA Leadership Award is presented to an outstanding leader who is honored for professional excellence, community service, and active assistance of women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

11th Annual EPIC Awards Gala
*Tuesday, October 26*

EPIC is the premier business award celebration in the region recognizing both businesses and individuals that foster community growth, demonstrate innovation, and have championed alongside others as mentors and collaborators. Award recipients are announced the night of the event, keeping finalists and attendees on the edge of their seats.

Diversity & Talent Summit
*Tuesday, November 16*

The Grand Rapids Chamber’s annual Diversity & Talent Summit will build upon foundational DEI knowledge and explore the latest DEI trends to enhance business success in an increasingly diverse and global community. This is West Michigan’s premier summit for CEOs, C-Suite administrators, Chief Diversity Officers, DEI practitioners, and human resources and talent acquisition professionals to build leadership capacity.
The Chamber is a hub of resources and connections for businesses and professionals. With programming geared toward individuals at every level of leadership and in various sectors, businesses benefit from the relevant insight of peers and meaningful interactions with decision-makers in the West Michigan business community.

**Business Exchange Luncheon**  
*February 11, March 11, April 15, May 10, July 15, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9*  
The Chamber’s most popular networking event provides members and future members with facilitated networking as well as an opportunity to leave the event with at least 14 new, quality leads. Facilitators walk attendees through conversations at one table during lunch, and another after lunch. Expo tables and open networking are also offered.

**Business Growth Series**  
*March 25, May 27, September 23, December 16*  
The Business Growth Series seeks to provide members with seminars on a variety of relevant and highly sought-after business topics presented by subject matter experts. Examples include sustainability, interacting with the media and beyond.

**CEO & Management Roundtable**  
*Monthly Basis*  
Structured peer groups of 12-15 business executives, CEOs, owners, and management professionals. Each month, the groups gather in a confidential setting to discuss issues affecting their business.

**Chamber After Hours**  
*June 3, August 5, December 2*  
Casual open networking in a fun and inclusive setting at a unique host location that provides an experience epitomizing the importance of Chamber membership and building long-lasting connections.

**ELEVATE Minority Business & Business Alliance Meetings**  
*Cohort Two: February 24, May 26, August 25, November 17*  
*Cohort Three: March 3, June 2, September 15, December 1*  
ELEVATE Minority Business supports second-stage business owners of color through complex business issues. Through mentorship, programs and connections, owners are given the resources to move their businesses to the next level.

**EOS Quarterly Meet-Up**  
*March 2, June 1, September 14, December 7*  
Join the Chamber in an environment that fosters an understanding of the human resources component (Right Person-Right Seat, Quarterly Conversations, Hiring Practices) of EOS. Businesses utilizing EOS and those looking to implement will be provided the opportunity to connect with EOS peers while gathering a deeper understanding of best EOS human resources practices.

**EOS TALKS**  
*February 17, May 19, August 18, November 17*
Join the Chamber for an introductory workshop on “What the Heck is EOS?” Whether you are interested in implementing, have tried to implement without success, or are in the process of self-implementing, you will be provided with the tools to help guide your company to a successful launch of EOS. The tools provided include peer connections, conversations, and access to a certified EOS implementer.

EOS Users Group

*Monthly Basis*

Roundtable for Visionaries, Integrators and EOS member companies to come together monthly to help guide each other through their EOS journey.

ESOP Quarterly Meet-Up

*March 17, May 12, August 11, November 10*

Join the Chamber as we take a deeper dive into topics relevant to Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) and best practices for organizations offering this employee benefit.

West Michigan Minority Contractors After Hours

*May 18, July 13, September 16, November 2*

These after-hours events will provide a platform for buyers to connect with local minority-owned business construction professionals, as well as remove barriers for smaller construction companies to enter the market.

West Michigan Minority Contractors Golf Scramble

*June 7*

The West Michigan Minority Contractors program provides capacity building support in the areas of estimation, bidding, and connecting contractors with buyers. Each event throughout the year will provide an opportunity to continue to bridge the gap between minority contractors, general contractors and buyers.

West Michigan Minority Contractors Programming

*February 16, March 16, October 5, December 14*

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**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**
The Chamber can help you navigate zoning laws, local ordinances, and City Hall. West Michigan is a great place to do business, but there are still rules to follow, paperwork to complete and permits to acquire. And while you know your business inside out, city, regional, and state government are a different story. That’s where your Chamber comes in. Our members turn to us for help with the paperwork, processes, and approvals needed to start, promote, and expand their businesses.

**Breakfast with Legislators**  
*February 1, March 1, March 29, May 3, June 7, September 27, October 25, December 6*  
This breakfast event provides Chamber members and their employees the opportunity to establish relationships with key decision makers and voice opinions on issues that matter to their business.

**Policy on Tap**  
*April 22, August 26, October 7, December 16*  
This event works to connect members with elected officials across the political spectrum in a casual atmosphere that promotes conversation and networking.

**Town Halls**  
*Scheduled to align with current events and topic relevancy to Grand Rapids Chamber membership*
TALENT DEVELOPMENT

We know our community’s growth and success are powered by a skilled, diverse workforce. That’s why we’re committed to helping West Michigan businesses expand the depth and breadth of their talent at every level of the organization. From CEO roundtables to the ATHENA Awards, we’re developing a more creative and capable workforce for our West Michigan.

ATHENA Leadership Forums & Programming
ATHENA Leadership Forums: February 9, April 13, June 8, November 9
ATHENA Grand Rapids Women’s Legacy Bus Tour: July 22
ATHENA LEADERCAST: August 10

The ATHENA Leadership Forums celebrate women in leadership by featuring local women leaders sharing their leadership lessons with an emphasis on elevating professional women of color and other marginalized identities.

Create Great Leaders Annual Fundraiser
July 29
Opportunity for alumni and fellow community leaders to connect throughout the year as we recognize alumni accomplishments and support scholarship opportunities for future Grand Rapids Chamber Leadership Program participants.

Diversity & Talent Series
February 23, May 18, July 20, October 19
The Talent Engagement & DEI Series will address various talent needs of the West Michigan business community. The series will also focus on the different ways to attract and retain top talent and include best practices in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Emerging Leaders Series
Cohort 1: April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19, June 2
Cohort 2: October 13, October 27, November 10, December 1, December 15
The Emerging Leaders Series is designed to help individuals grow their career and become actively engaged in the Grand Rapids community. This five-session program is built to engage participants in a variety of ways, from a bus tour of Grand Rapids to in-depth discussions about individual leadership styles.

Institute for Healing Racism
January 27, March 3-4, April 28-29, May 24, August 20, September 10, November 19
Institute for Healing Racism is designed to attack the disease of racism from all sides. Throughout the program, a racially diverse group of people commit to learning how to diagnose and heal the disease by first dissecting their own thoughts, feelings, and actions. Most importantly, each participant must be able to listen in a non-judgmental, objective manner.

Institute for Healing Racism 2.0
March 29, December 6
Designed for individuals who have completed and are alumni of the Institute for Healing Racism.
Leadership Advantage
Cohort 1: January 19, February 2, February 16, March 2, March 16, March 30, April 13, April 27, May 11
Cohort 2: June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24, September 9, September 21, October 5, October 19

Now in its thirteenth year, Leadership Advantage is an intensive skills-based executive leadership coaching program which is designed to enhance the knowledge and critical thinking skills of emerging and established leaders. The truly unique aspect of Leadership Advantage is its focus on a group leadership coaching experience, which incorporates substantial opportunities for meaningful self-reflection, peer coaching, and honest conversation.

Leadership Grand Rapids
Orientation for Class of 2022: August 19 | Opening Retreat: September 17 & 18

Leadership Grand Rapids (LGR) is designed to be unlike any other leadership program where, instead of analyzing leadership tactics and principles, participants are asked to use a systems-thinking approach to tackle real issues facing our community. This approach to the programming is meant to foster community trustees who will leave the class with a community-focused mindset that creates a lifelong commitment to creating a thriving and prosperous West Michigan for all.

Leadership Lesson Series
February 4, November 4

Join the Chamber as we gather to hear from strong community trustees and leaders sharing valuable leadership lessons.

Leading Edge
Cohort 1: February 9, February 23, March 9, March 23
Cohort 2: July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31, September 14
Cohort 3: September 28, October 12, October 26, November 9, November 23

Built for the next generation of women leaders in the workplace, Leading Edge helps create a successful path forward by teaching practical concepts and offering a hands-on practicum in leadership skills. Leading Edge is targeted to high-performing women who are currently leading projects and/or people in the workplace. A minimum of four years professional experience is required.

OutPro
March 10, May 12, August 18, October 13

OutPro is an LGBTQ+ professional group that promotes a welcoming culture in the West Michigan business community for LGBTQ+ professionals and allies. OutPro offers opportunities for both social and professional networking through programming and gatherings at various venues in the community.

Performance Management Acumen
Dates determined based on facilitator availability

Provide upskilling, support, and a cohort to learn how to be an effective manager.

Public Speaking and Presence Workshop
dates determined based on facilitator availability (five sessions)

Develop public speaking and presence skills for the business community.