



Grand Rapids Chamber 2022 Program Overview

SIGNATURE EVENTS



134th Annual Meeting: The State of Grand Rapids Business *Wednesday, February 2*

At the Grand Rapids Chamber's largest event of the year, we're partnering with Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business to present The State of Grand Rapids Business. Experts will provide data and insights your business can use on the economy, and we'll analyze indicators related to business growth, talent, inflation, housing, innovation, and more.



Health Care Summit *Tuesday, March 22*

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 to build a healthier community.



West Michigan CEO Summit *Tuesday, June 14*

The West Michigan CEO Summit 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 50th Annual Chamber Open *Monday, July 18*

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.



Grand Rapids Policy Conference

Tuesday, August 16

The Grand Rapids Policy Conference will provide a platform to celebrate and discuss Grand Rapids' bright future. National and local thought leaders will share insight on Grand Rapids' resilience and ability to tackle the problems and challenges ahead to create and thriving and prosperous West Michigan for all.



33rd Annual ATHENA Awards Celebration

Wednesday, September 28

Finalist Reception: Thursday, September 8

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.



12th Annual EPIC Awards Gala

Wednesday, October 19

Finalist Reception: Tuesday, October 4

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 attendees on the edge of their seats.



Diversity & Talent Summit

Tuesday, November 15

The annual Diversity & Talent Summit builds upon foundational knowledge and explores 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.

BUSINESS SERVICES

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

Thursdays: February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8

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.



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 101

February 22, July 26, December 1

Chamber 101 is designed for members looking to begin, continue or further involvement with the Chamber. Chamber 101 allows members to learn about the different Chamber offerings and how to start getting involved to make the most of your membership.



Chamber After Hours: End-of-Year Celebration

Thursday, December 1

Join the Grand Rapids Chamber for an end of year bash at Chamber After Hours! Say cheers to a great year with your Chamber family with the most festive networking event of the year. It's time to finish the year strong with some great new connections.



ELEVATE Minority Business

Wednesdays: February 9, May 11, August 10, November 9

ELEVATE aims to build increased capacity among second-stage, growth-minded minority businesses by removing obstacles for equitable inclusion and creating a solid foundation of social capital. Participants are equipped with strong business fundamentals and surrounded with a system to enable the growth needed to provide the vision, direction, and leadership to manage a more complex business.



West Michigan Minority Contractors Golf Outing

Monday, June 27

This golf outing brings together minority business owners, women business owners, general contractors, and end-users to enhance networking and support a diverse supplier base. By giving those in the construction community a chance to build awareness for their services and build relationships with general contractors and end-users, we can make sure that diverse businesses thrive.



West Michigan Minority Contractors After Hours

Tuesday, March 15 & Tuesday, September 13

West Michigan Minority Contractors After Hours events provide attendees the opportunity to connect with peers and gain potential business referrals. These social hour events 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.

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

Mondays: January 24, April 11, May 23, October 24, December 5

Breakfast with Legislators provides members the opportunity to establish relationships with key decision makers and voice opinions on issues moving forward in Lansing. Facilitated question-and-answer sessions offer firsthand information on upcoming legislation and House and Senate committee activities, prompting great dialogue between legislators and attendees.



Virtual Town Halls

Throughout the year as needed

As the Grand Rapids Chamber works to keep our members informed, we will occasionally host complimentary virtual town halls to keep our members up to date with the latest policy updates and resources.

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

Tuesdays: February 15, June 7, November 8

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.



ATHENA Walking Tour

Tuesday, April 26

The ATHENA Walking Tour takes participants to the abundant, noteworthy sights in our city that originated with women. The tour will visit some of the public art recognizing women in our city, from the local artists who painted the RAD American Women electrical boxes, to the featured female heroes of the Women's Way Murals, and Community Legends Bronze Sculptures. This is a great opportunity to connect with other ATHENA advocates while getting inspired by lady legends, past and present!



Create Great Leaders Annual Fundraiser

Wednesday, August 3

The Create Great Leaders Annual Fundraiser allows attendees to reunite with other program alumni. Ticket sales help provide deserving participants scholarships to Create Great Leaders programs such as Leadership Grand Rapids.



Emerging Leaders Series

Cohort 1: April 13, April 27, May 11, May 25, June 8

Cohort 2: October 12, October 26, November 9, November 30, December 14

This series is designed to help individuals grow their career and become actively engaged in the community. The 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.



Grand Rapids Connect

October 6-7

Grand Rapids Connect is geared toward professionals new to the city, boomerangs returning home or individuals looking to further engage with the community. The program includes an overnight stay downtown Grand Rapids and provides insight into the city's latest and greatest developments. Participants will hear from some of the most dynamic leaders and individuals shaping the city's future. Throughout

the event, participants will explore our community, learn about social and community engagement opportunities, and delve into how to connect in Grand Rapids.



Latina Connect

Saturdays: January 29, April 30, July 30, October 22

Latina Connect is a new program that meets our Latina business professionals and community members where they are. Presented in Spanish, Latina Connect works to support Latinas in making new connections and growing as leaders.



Leadership Advantage

Tuesdays: August 9, August 23, September 6, September 20, October 18, November 15, November 29

In its final year, Leadership Advantage is an intensive skills-based executive leadership coaching program designed to enhance the knowledge and critical thinking skills of emerging and established leaders. The 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 conversations about how your worldview influences your leadership effectiveness.



Leadership Grand Rapids

Class of 2022: January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 20-21 (Closing Retreat)

Class of 2023: Applications to open in March, August 18 (Orientation), September 16-17 (Opening Retreat), October 20, November 17, December 8

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 fosters 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. Applications open every March for the following program year.



Leadership Lesson Breakfasts

Thursday, February 24 & Thursday, November 3

Leadership Lesson Breakfasts feature strong community trustees and leaders sharing valuable leadership lessons. In addition to a brief presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to network with Chamber members and connect with other leadership alumni.



Leading Edge

Cohort 1: March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, April 28

Cohort 2: September 14, September 28, October 12, October 26, November 9

Specifically for the next generation of women leaders in the workplace, Leading Edge teaches practical concepts and offers a hands-on practicum in the leadership skills you need.



LeadUp

Cohort 1: March 1, March 15, March 29, April 12, April 26, May 10

Cohort 2 (presented in Spanish): September 6, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15

LeadUp is designed to guide first-time managers through the concepts and principles necessary for a successful transition. The assessment, curriculum and individual coaching included in the program has been tailored specifically for new managers in the skilled trades. Cohort 1 will be presented in English. Cohort 2 will be presented in Spanish.



OutPro

Tuesdays: March 8, May 18, August 9, October 11

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.



Speak with Purpose

Cohort 1: June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, September 12

Cohort 2: September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7

Speak with Purpose is designed to equip participants with the skills and confidence necessary to organize and deliver effective presentations. Over the course of five interactive sessions, individuals will learn how to organize a presentation and deliver it to audiences large and small.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

In principle and practice, the Grand Rapids Chamber believes in the value and power of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Without diversity, equity, and inclusion, we limit our talent, resources, and the business opportunities necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Our DEI programs work to support our members in implementing inclusive practices to navigate the ever-changing marketplace long-term.



Becoming a Culturally Intelligent Leader

Wednesdays: February 16, April 20, June 15

Becoming a Culturally Intelligent Leader is a three-part cohort that goes beyond cultural awareness by utilizing peer-reviewed research and recognized methods to build an individual's cultural intelligence, learn how to use CQ to counter and mitigate unintentional bias, and how to implement CQ into your work as a leader of multicultural teams and customers.



Diversity & Talent Webinar Series

Tuesdays: February 15, May 17, July 19, October 18

The Diversity & Talent 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.



Virtual Inclusion Solutions

Tuesdays: February 22, June 21, September 27, December 13

The Grand Rapids Chamber is committed to walking alongside you wherever you are in your DEI journey. Designed for DEI practitioners, leaders, and HR professionals, the Inclusion Solutions events will provide peer connections, conversations, and best practices as we facilitate the management of change and implementation of new strategies.



Inclusion Leadership Cohort

September 27, November 2, December 7, December 13

New in 2022, the Inclusion Leadership Cohort is designed for mid- to upper-level leadership roles looking to enhance their skills in leading diverse teams. Throughout the series, participants will learn tools and strategies for inclusive performance management and talent retention.



Institute for Healing Racism

January 26-27, March 24-25, May 24-25, August 24-25, October 25-26

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.
