

Welcome to MGM2021 Gather!

*The 2021 Maize Genetics Meeting will be using Gather to provide a virtual social and networking experience in addition to the regular meeting schedule. This document is to help you with the **basics** so you can have the best experience within Gather.*

What you need:

- A **desktop/laptop** with a **mic** and **camera**.
- A web browser (Chrome or Firefox recommended).
- We strongly recommend using **headphones** to help prevent feedback.
- That's it! There's nothing to install, no software to download.

How it works:

- Gather is a video chat platform that has avatars move around a map. As you get close to other avatars, your videos will pop up and you will be able to chat.
- If needed, you can mute your microphone and/or turn off your camera.
- Move around the space using the **arrow keys**.
- By moving your avatar around you can have spontaneous conversations with those around you. These can be either one-on-one or small groups depending on how many people are around your avatar.
- When your avatar moves closer to an interactable object, it will glow yellow and there will be a notification that shows up saying 'Press x to interact with -object-'.
- There are a combination of both public and private spaces.

Not-So-Obvious Features:

Here are some things you might find useful but aren't immediately obvious.

- There is a **messaging feature** that allows you to message people in three ways:
 1. *individually* by clicking on their name in the participant panel,
 2. *locally* to the people you are video chatting with,
 3. *globally* to all the people in your map.
- There is a **locate feature** to find others by clicking their name in the participant panel. The participant panel is the bottom-most option in your toolbar on the left.
- Interaction distance is also sometimes altered by **designated private spaces**. This allows conversations to only include people inside that space.
- Want to **full screen someone else's video**? Just click on their video.
- Talking to a group of people? Click the down arrows centered below the videos to shift into **grid view**.

Icon explanation:



Screen sharing ability



Change your **avatar** character and clothing



Mini map to preview the space you're in



Emotes that appear above your avatar.



Opens the **settings** menu:g

- Change Name
- Change Audio/Video Devices
- Respawn button to return to start



Booths are available for sponsors, funding agencies, and community groups. Some booths will be staffed with personnel. Please visit booths to ask questions or get further information.

Technical difficulties:

- Refreshing the page will fix most things!
 - If that doesn't work, try muting and unmuting your mic and camera in Gather.
 - Check if your browser permitted camera and mic access
 - If you are able to navigate in Gather, we will have a help desk in the foyer.
 - Additional troubleshooting at <https://gather.town/video-issues>

Best practices while using Gather:

- Don't move your avatar while talking. The farther away you get from someone the harder it will be for them to hear you.
- Move to private spaces when speaking with others to avoid extraneous background noise from crowded public spaces.