

# Welcome to MGM2022 Gather!

*The 2022 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.