

GPLEX 2022, Detroit

What are the Topics?

Spotlighting and dissecting examples of successful cross-sector collaboration

At GPLEX we cover a huge variety of topics. Our theme this year is “Stellar Cross-Sector Collaboration in Detroit,” which touches almost every industry, lifestyle, and demographic in the city. In order to choose topics for panel discussions, regional explorations, and workshops, GPLEX Director Kiersten Mailler spent 6 months interviewing Detroit leaders to learn about the most high-impact and unique ideas that Detroiters are working on. *Some details are subject to change...

Use this guide to learn about which topics are encompassed in each presentation, panel, or discussion...

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Main Stage Topics

Main stage topics were chosen because nearly everyone interviewed mentioned them in some way, and these ideas are “must-learns” from Detroit, and all attendees will attend these talks...



- *Detroit’s Downtown Renaissance:* The Central Business District of Detroit has transformed in the last 10 years from a mostly abandoned ghost town to a thriving and energetic center. We will learn how from the people who made it happen.
- *Philanthropy and Major Donors’ Impact on Detroit:* Philanthropy has changed the face of Detroit and the way it operates in the last few decades. Very few major projects or social endeavors take place without the involvement of a donor.
- *Education + Employment Pipelines:* Detroit’s economy has been historically dictated by a single industry (automotive manufacturing), so the workforce is mainly prepared for an industry that is losing prominence. Detroit educators are setting up systems to fix this.



- **Community Engagement and Development:** Detroit is a pioneer in civic engagement strategies, and as the city undergoes development, specialists have implemented standard practices that should be employed everywhere.
- **Innovation:** New and exciting ideas about how to change the world! Innovation covers most sectors, but we will hear from several groups working to transform the city through cross-sector strategies.

Regional Explorations

Regional Explorations are places and issues that are unique and telling about the Detroit region: these are places that we will learn from by experiencing them in person...

Regional Explorations (RegEx's) will take place over the course of two days, and attendees will go to two of eight possible locations. One of the days will be assigned and attended with workshop groups, the others are chosen via sign-ups. Exploration locations include:



- **Marygrove Conservancy:** A conversation about community and education at a recently established campus for pre-K through college education. The campus director will give us a tour of the space and discuss her approach to community, incubating small business, and leadership.
- **Location TBA: Manufacturing:** The planning team is currently searching for a manufacturing facility for a group tour. Manufacturing has been Detroit's largest industry for nearly a century.
- **Michigan Central Station + Corktown: Ford + Google Innovation Hub:** A trip to the new innovation campus that has revamped Detroit's famous Michigan Central Station and brought new life to a long-abandoned site. We will explore ways in which this project changes the tech sector, transportation, and how the community is involved.
- **Livernois Fashion Corridor: Live6 CDC:** The Avenue of Fashion is a Detroit mainstay that is benefitting from new, concentrated investment. We'll hear from the forces behind this movement, and the entrepreneurs who are benefitting from the collaborative strategy.
- **Detroit Arab-American Museum + Hamtramack:** The Detroit region has one of the highest Arab-American populations in the country, and the ways that demographics are concentrated reveal a story about culture, land use, politics, and property values.
- **The Riverwalk + Dequinder Cut:** We will visit and walk two major recent green space developments and see how influencers of change employ inclusive strategies, negotiate with land owners, and create a space that is accessible and democratic.
- **Eastern Market + Keep Growing Detroit:** Detroit's Eastern Market is a unique and long-surviving space where merchants, farmers, and food distributors gather from all over the region on a weekly basis. This food hub has a fascinating history and a bright future, thanks to economies of scale and creative partnerships
- **The North End Neighborhood:** A concentrated example of history, land use, housing, and demographics: we will enjoy a tour of this dynamic neighborhood with Detroit's historian, and discuss how policies and investment affect development on a neighborhood scale.

Workshops



15-20 groups of 18-12

The workshop setup for this conference is something new we're launching this year: groups will have about 8 hours together to work through a huge variety of complex topics. Working groups will be assigned by interest area, and we are working to make each group as diverse as possible. These will be spaces to discuss issues that may not be covered explicitly in other sessions.