

Tuesday, June 6th

Electives:

Attendees will get to know and experience Grand Rapids through interactive lunch and learns and various tours throughout the city.

Diversity & Inclusion – Essential to a Dynamic Economy. Interactive Lunch & Learn: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Meet Tyrone Tyra in the lobby of the JW Marriott. **Cost:** Separate checks will be available at Margaux (restaurant located in lobby of JW Marriott).

The Grand Rapids business community, and specifically the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, work intentionally to cultivate a community that is welcoming, diverse, and inclusive to all. In principle and practice, the Chamber believes in the value and power of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through the Center for Economic Inclusion, which supports inclusive economic development, programs and consulting services, and strategic partners such as the West Michigan Minority Contractors and other organizations, the region is leveraging its DE&I efforts to maximize opportunities to thrive in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. Join Grand Rapids Chamber team members **Attah Obande**, Vice President, Business and Talent Development and **Amari Brown**, Inclusion Program Manager for this idea sharing luncheon.

How Grand Rapids is Dealing with Housing Affordability Challenges - Interactive Lunch & Learn: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Meet Andi Johnson in the J.W. Marriott lobby at 11:45 to walk to lunch at [Sundance Grill & Bar](#) (151 Ottawa Avenue Northwest) **Cost: \$25**

Like Lexington, housing availability and affordability is a top challenge facing the West Michigan region. Regulatory barriers, costs of construction, labor challenges, growth issues, and more are all impacting the market and driving public and private sector to engage in creative ways to find solutions. Join **Brooke Oosterman**, Director of Housing Next and **Travis Alden** Senior Director, Community Development at The Right Place for this conversation. With a nearly 35,000 unit shortage over the next 5 years just in and around the City of Grand Rapids the two organizations have come together to accelerate efforts and have recently been awarded designation from the State of Michigan under its first Statewide Housing Plan to expand collaborative efforts into 13 counties in West Michigan. Housing Next and The Right Place have partnered to ensure their communities are focused on transformational place-based development projects while ensuring there is enough housing at all price points to create greater economic stability in the region, better health, and access to education. Sessions like this Learn at Lunch allow for the sharing of best practices and new ideas in a small group setting and more networking opportunities.

Engagement Lunch at Founders Brewery: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Meet Amy Stout in the J.W. Marriott lobby at 11:45 for bus departure. **Cost: \$35**

Come enjoy great food, great beer, great company and great conversation over a bbq buffet lunch! Engage with your fellow Leadership Visit attendees to get to know each other while you continue the conversations focused on what you've observed about Grand Rapids' story as well as your thoughts about Lexington's current story. These conversations will tie into our closing session, exploring Lexington's future story. Facilitators: Vitale Hardin, Amy Stout.

Frederick Meijer Gardens: 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Meet in the J.W. Marriott lobby at 11:45 for bus departure. Cost: \$45 (includes bus transfer, entrance fee, lunch voucher and tram tour)

Grand Rapids' centerpiece attraction is Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, a 158-acre botanical garden, art museum, and outdoor sculpture park. Experience masterpieces of art and nature during this guided tram tour. Highlights include the Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden, the Lena Meijer Children's Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden and more.

Gerald Ford Presidential Museum: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Meet group at the museum. This will be a private guided tour. Cost: \$10

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is the presidential museum and burial place of Gerald Ford, the 38th president of the United States and his wife Betty Ford. Exhibits on President Ford's life and career as President of the United States including candid photographs of Ford interacting with his family and colleagues, a full-scale replica of the Oval Office furnished as it was during Ford's presidency and the Ford Cabinet Room. In addition to the permanent exhibits, a succession of temporary exhibits draws upon the rich holdings of the entire presidential libraries system, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives, and others.

Innovation Center at Medical Mile: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Meet group at the Innovation Center (109 Michigan St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503). No charge to attend.

The 200,000-square-foot Doug Meijer Medical Innovation Building opened in late 2021 and is located next to the MSU Grand Rapids Research Center on Medical Mile. Collaboration among tenants is bringing new discoveries to the market. Jerry Kooiman, Assistant Dean for External Relations, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Kyle McGregor, PhD, Director of Health Innovations, Spartan Innovations, Robert Niemiec, Managing Partner, Twisthink, Inc and Anthony Chang, PhD, Founder and CEO, BAMF Health, will lead this tour to show participants a true example of the partnerships that are driving technology and innovation making Grand Rapids a leader in medical advancements.

Downtown Development Tour: (2:00 – 3:30 p.m.)

Meet Allen McDaniel in the J.W. Marriott lobby at 1:45 p.m. Guided walking tour. No charge to attend.

Join **Tim Kelly**, President & CEO of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc and **Allen McDaniel**, Executive Director of the Downtown Lexington Partnership for this walking tour and discussion of our shared goal of supporting the urban core of our communities. Grand Rapids is centered in a safe, clean compact downtown that includes more than 200 restaurants, shops, performance venues, arts and cultural sites. Downtowns are the heart of our communities. Great cities have great downtowns! A thriving downtown means successful businesses, engaged citizens, diverse cultural events, broad housing options, and robust employment opportunities. Enjoy this walking tour while learning of key successes and challenges, and upcoming development plans as we learn of new ways to enhance and grow our downtown core.