

MBLGTACC | 2024

OCTOBER 25-27 | MARQUETTE, MI

WE ARE EVERYWHERE





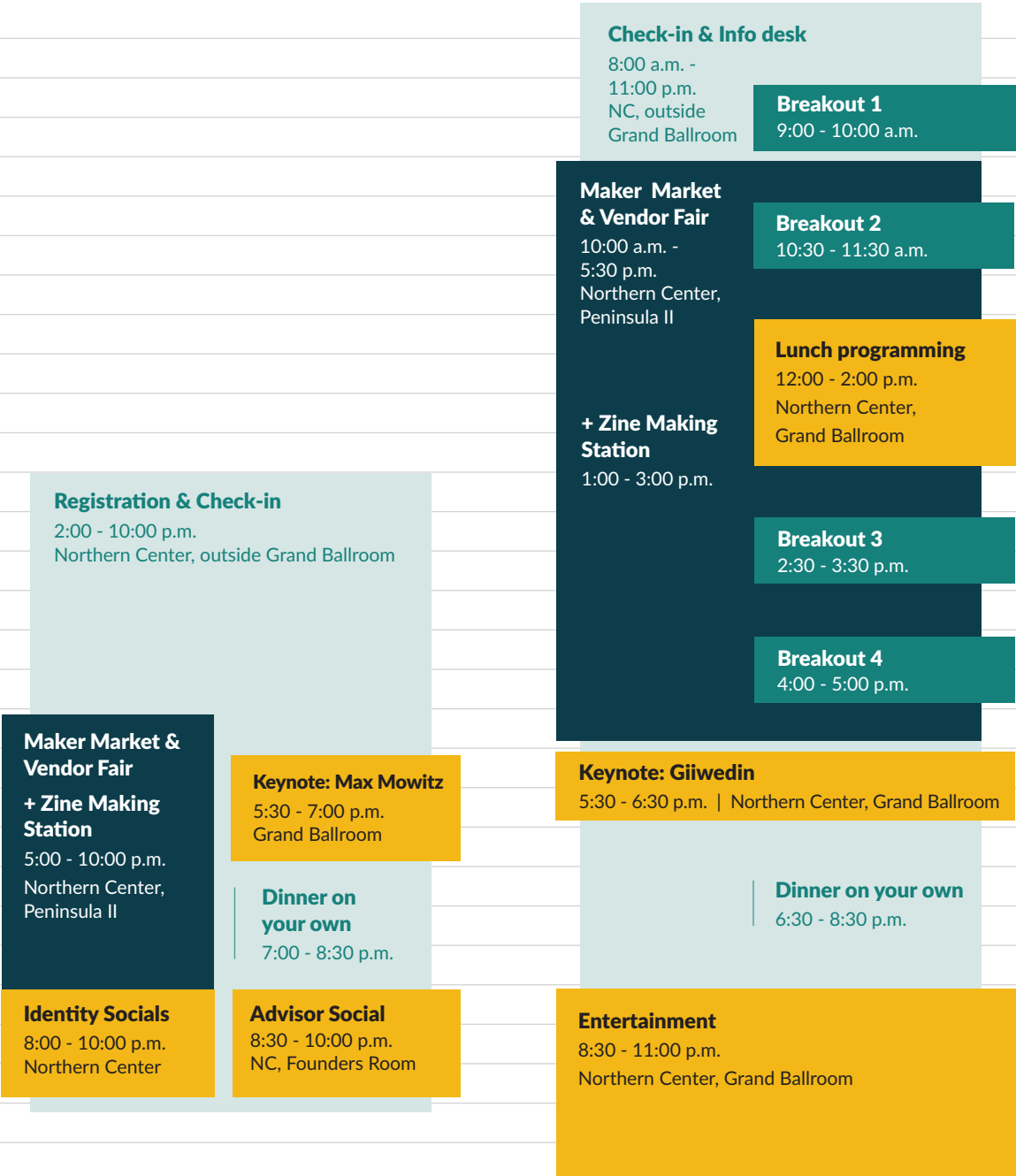
# SCHEDULE

All times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time

## FRIDAY, OCT. 25

## SATURDAY, OCT. 26

9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
11:00 AM  
12:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
2:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
4:00 PM  
5:00 PM  
6:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
8:00 PM  
9:00 PM  
10:00 PM  
11:00 PM



SUNDAY, OCT. 27

**Breakfast social + closing** 9:45 a.m. | Gr. Ballrm.

**Breakout 5**  
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

# CONTENTS

**2**  
SCHEDULE

**4**  
WELCOME

**5**  
GENERAL INFO

**8**  
FEATURED  
PROGRAMMING

Keynotes  
Maker Market  
Vendor Fair  
Revoluncheon  
Entertainment  
Socials

**13**  
ADVISOR  
PROGRAMMING

**16**  
WORKSHOP  
TRACKS, SCHEDULE,  
& DETAIL

22 | Session 1

25 | Session 2

28 | Session 3

31 | Session 4

34 | Session 5

**36**  
MAPS

**38**  
EMERGENCY AND  
CRISIS INFO

COVER ART CREATED BY  
SHELBY GOODE

Shelby Goode is a BFA student at NMU getting her degree in painting. She primarily works in oil paint, focusing on semi-realistic portraiture but is known to occasionally dabble in doodles.





*WELCOME TO*

# MBLGTACC

As we embark on this 32nd annual conference weekend, we are reminded of the apt proclamation emphasized by this year's theme that "We Are Everywhere." For the first time in the conference's history, we are gathering in the upper peninsula of Michigan, a location that touts a rich history of queer and trans advocacy on the shores of Gichigami (Lake Superior).

*Read our full community welcome at [MBLGTACC.ORG/WELCOME](https://www.mblgtacc.org/welcome)*

**JUSTIN DRWENCKE**

Executive Director, Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity

**R.B. BROOKS**

Director of Programs, Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity



GENERAL

# INFORMATION



## REGISTRATION & INFO DESK

Northern Center,  
outside Grand Ballroom  
Friday: 2:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Follow [@mblgtacc](#) and  
use [#mblgtacc2024](#) on  
Instagram and TikTok

SOCIAL



## WIFI ACCESS

Visitors without NMU credentials can connect  
using the NMU\_GUEST access points after  
agreeing to the acceptable use policy.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Hotels and parking

[mblgtacc.org/hotels-parking](https://mblgtacc.org/hotels-parking)  
Hotel addresses and nearby parking



### Accessibility

[mblgtacc.org/accessibility](https://mblgtacc.org/accessibility)  
Information on service animals and emotional  
support animals; auditory, mobility, scent, and  
visual accessibility; and our quiet space



### Policies and guidelines

[mblgtacc.org/policies](https://mblgtacc.org/policies)  
Code for Inclusion, health and safety, firearms,  
'Good Samaritan' laws, photography, and smoking





OUR THEME

# WE ARE EVERYWHERE

**W**e exist in major cities, small towns, and everything in between. We are neighbors, friends, and cherished family members. We are creating lasting impact on the world as therapists, authors, doctors, educators, animators, and politicians. Even in spaces where others try to push us out, we continue the fight for visibility. We define ourselves by an existence of community, resistance, and hope for a better tomorrow - for ourselves and future generations, the way our elders have done for us.

Marquette and Northern Michigan University extend a heartfelt welcome as you spend this weekend in the place we call home. Explore the unique landscape of the Anishinaabe Ancestral Homelands—from waterfalls, to forests, to beaches, there's an avenue to connection and grounding for everyone. Our rural town is evidence of queer liberation being possible in all corners of the world. Find yourself reflected in the waters of our community.

From the edge of nowhere to the middle of somewhere, we are queer and we are here.





# KEYNOTE

## MAX MOWITZ

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
**5:30 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**GRAND BALLROOM**  
*Welcome remarks at 5:30*  
*Keynote at 6:00 p.m.*

**MAX MOWITZ** (they/he) is a lifelong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and the liberation of all marginalized peoples. Since coming out in high school, Max's leadership and activism focuses on community and coalition building, solidarity, and compassionate community education. Max is the executive director of One Iowa and One Iowa Action, leading both statewide LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations focused on uplifting and empowering LGBTQ+



lowans. Prior to their leadership of the organization, Max served as the program director for five years, building One Iowa's programming, direct service and community education efforts.



# NO

# TO

## KEYNOTE

# GIIWEDIN

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
**5:30 - 6:30 P.M.**  
**GRAND BALLROOM**

**GIIWEDIN** (any pronouns) is an Anishinaabe Two-Spirit water protector and educator who uses social media to share about their culture, Indigenous and environmental issues, and queer indigenous history and acceptance. He is an enrolled member of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and grew up on the Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota, home to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Their primary



account is @giiwedindizhinikaaz on Instagram with 155k followers and was GLAAD and *Teen Vogue's* 20 under 20 honoree for LGBTQ+ changemakers in 2022.

# MARKETS

## MAKER MARKET AND VENDOR FAIR

**FRIDAY, 5:00 - 10:00 P.M.**  
**SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.**  
NORTHERN CENTER PENINSULA II

Queer and trans makers and creators, admissions reps, testing, businesses, nonprofits, and more.

Baby Kat Aesthetic

Bard Queer  
Leadership Project

Behennaed

Carna Mental  
Wellness

Emi the Vitki &  
Nox Creations

J+J Button Factory

Kris Pfaffle

Meadville Lombard  
Theological School

MJW Designs and  
Things, LLC

Planned Parenthood  
of Michigan

Queer Comics  
Peddler

Smith College School  
for Social Work

Stewie's Got Pride

Transfigure Print Co.

UW-Madison School  
of Education

University of Michigan  
Ford School of Public  
Policy

UP Rainbow Pride

Xeroine Illustration

Yessica Jimenez



### ZINE MAKING STATION

Friday, 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. | Saturday, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Northern Center Peninsula II



### HIV TESTING

Saturday, October 26 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Peninsula I



# + FUN



## IDENTITY SOCIALS

Friday, October 25  
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Northern Center



## ADVISOR SOCIAL

Friday, October 25  
8:30 - 10:00 p.m.  
Northern Center, Founders Room



## OPEN MIC NIGHT

Saturday, October 26  
8:30 - 11:00 p.m.  
Northern Center, Grand Ballroom

# LUNCH & LEARN

## The Revoluncheon

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**

**12:00 - 2:00 P.M.**

**GRAND BALLROOM**

This lunch and learn session engages MBLGTACC participants in reflection, discussion and action planning around various issues specifically impacting Midwest queer and trans communities.



### **Trivia Edition**

The Revoluncheon: Trivia Edition will bring attendees together to build knowledge, showcase shared histories, and highlight important milestones around change on college campuses, arts and media, activism, public policy and more!

Prepare to learn from your peers and play to win prizes!



# ADVISORS

Programming curated for advisors, graduate students and higher ed pros

## ADVISOR TRACK

See session descriptions in workshop section.

Workshops for all those who dedicate themselves to supporting queer and trans college students as advisors, student support service staff or by way of “other duties as assigned.”

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

This year’s advisor programming was made possible by the integral relationship between MBLGTACC and the **Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals** ([lgbtcampus.org](http://lgbtcampus.org)). The Consortium is an organization that envisions higher education environments where LGBTQ people, inclusive of all of our intersecting identities, are fully liberated.



JOIN THE  
ADVISOR  
GROUP ME



## ADVISOR SOCIAL

Friday | 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.  
Founders Room

Connect and mingle with your fellow advisors, grad students, and higher ed folks! Beverages and light refreshments available.

Please no undergraduate students.

# MBLG TACC

# 2025

Midwest Bisexual Lesbian  
Gay Transgender Asexual  
College Conference

NORTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Fargo, North Dakota

**OCT. 31 - NOV. 2**





---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# WORK- SHOPS

## SESSION SCHEDULE & DETAILS

---

**SESSION 1** | PAGE 24

Saturday, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**SESSION 2** | PAGE 27

Saturday, 10:30 - 11:30 p.m.

**SESSION 3** | PAGE 30

Saturday, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**SESSION 4** | PAGE 33

Saturday, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**SESSION 5** | PAGE 36

Sunday, 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

**SESSION 6** | PAGE 37

Sunday, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

---

*See full schedule on pages 2-3.*

Build your breakout schedule based on your interests in topics, session formats, content warnings, and more.

## BY TOPIC / TRACK

### Small Town Queerness

TAGGED AS RURAL

Communities outside of urban spaces are often disregarded by political campaigning and resource allocation, leaving marginalized communities to manifest their own models of advocacy, organizing, and activism. By focusing on the work being done in rural communities to bridge resource gaps, build extensive communities, and combat small town conservative ideologies, we expand our toolkit of possible tactics and strategies for social change.

### Self and Community Care

TAGGED AS CARE

Experiences of burnout, disruptions to existing organization and education efforts, and constantly reacting to waves of injustice have weighed heavily on queer and trans communities. It is essential we dedicate time and attention to pleasure, joy, wellness, and healing in order to sustain ourselves, our communities and our movement.

### Art, Media, and Design

TAGGED AS MEDIA

Queer and trans folks know a thing or two about entertainment, content creation, media, and design! Whether the goal is advocacy for a cause, mobilizing people around an injustice, tightening a community through art and music, or bringing laughter and joy to your followers, media and content creation is a strong tool for gender justice and sexual liberation.

### Justice, Activism and Protest

TAGGED AS ACTIVISM

Justice and rights will never be handed over by oppressive systems. They must be demanded. College campuses, urban centers, and rural communities have all been sites for direct action, protests, and other forms of activism in recent years specifically around issues of racial justice, police brutality, student loan debt, and climate catastrophes. Queer and trans folks are highly represented among those on the front lines, in medic tents, and leading mutual aid projects.



## Change on College Campuses

TAGGED AS CAMPUS

College campuses are key areas of influence for our conference attendees. The history of higher education is rife with instances in which queer and trans people are underrepresented in programming, initiatives, and opportunities. College students, educators, and practitioners play an integral role in expanding possibilities for our communities on campuses and improving campus climate for marginalized people.

## Advisor Track

TAGGED AS ADVISOR

We are huge fans of the folks on college campuses who dedicate themselves to supporting queer and trans college students as advisors, student support service staff or by way of “other duties as assigned.” The work performed by these individuals is often thankless or beyond their job description but plays a huge part in creating affirming spaces and experiences for queer and trans college students. We want to recognize this work and hold space for these roles who often attend the conference with their student groups.

## CONTENT WARNINGS KEY

<b>A</b> Ableism	<b>F</b> Fatphobia	<b>SV</b> Sexual violence
<b>AB</b> Abuse	<b>M</b> Misogyny	<b>SA</b> Substance abuse
<b>BH</b> Biphobia / Homophobia	<b>R</b> Racism	<b>SU</b> Suicide
<b>C</b> Classism	<b>RV</b> Relationship violence	<b>T</b> Transphobia
<b>D</b> Death	<b>SH</b> Self-harm / Self-injury	<b>V</b> Violence
<b>E</b> Eating disorders	<b>S</b> Sexism	<b>X</b> Xenophobia

## BY FORMAT

A breakout session's format gives you important information about the experience, how it will be delivered, and the extent to which you, as an attendee, may expect to participate:



### **Knowledge Builder**

Workshop presenters (individuals or panels) will share specific content, research, knowledge, and/or history with the audience. Sessions may include Q&A from the audience, but this isn't required.



### **Application & Decompression**

These sessions provide the “what’s next” implicitly or explicitly and help attendees break down the information they’ve learned and prepare to apply it after leaving MBLGTACC. Audience participation and experiences are encouraged in these sessions.



### **Facilitated Conversation**

Workshop presenters will engage the audience in a discussion about a topic or shared experience. Audience participation and experiences are centered in these sessions.



### **Skill Lab**

These sessions feature hands-on demonstrations that provide a tangible outcome or product.

# BREAKOUT SCHEDULE

Find **OVERALL SCHEDULE** on pages 2-3

LOCATION	<b>BREAKOUT 1</b> SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M.	<b>BREAKOUT 2</b> SATURDAY, 10:30 A.M.	<b>BREAKOUT 3</b> SATURDAY, 2:30 P.M.
<b>JXJ 1311</b>	Queer and Trans Joy: A Form of Community Care	Burnout and Beyond: Healing for Queer Joy	The Forgotten Intersectionality of Disabled Queers
<b>JXJ 1313</b>	The Right Tool For The Job	Social Media Advocacy 101	Intersectional Justice: Queer Activism in the Fight for Liberation
<b>JXJ 1315</b>	The Call is Coming from Inside the House: Making Sense of the Current Political Climate	A is for Aro: Aromanticism 101	
<b>JXJ 1317</b>	Activism and Becoming an Activist		Neuroqueerness: The Overlap in Neurodivergence and Queerness
<b>JXJ 1318</b>	No Walls Between Us: Palestine 101	Trans Bodies in Flux: Negotiating Uncertainty in Transition	Criminalization of QT People in the U.S.
<b>JXJ 1319</b>		Gender Bias in Higher Ed: Impact on Trans and Non-Binary Employees	Autism and Transness
<b>JXJ 1320</b>	LGBTQIA+ Centers as Brave Spaces for Talking About Sex	Queer Rage: What to do when the joy's not there	The Art of (Be)Longing: Queer Love Poetry, Literature, and Media
<b>JXJ 1322</b>	GaySL	Freaks, Femmes, and Ferocity: Drag in the U.S	Romancing the Stone: Stone Culture, Identity, and Sexuality
<b>JXJ 2315</b>	Korean Uniqueness, Nerve and Talent	Where Your Privilege Lies	A is for Aro: The Deep Dive
<b>JXJ 2317</b>	Navigating Barriers in Higher Education Identity Offices	That Art is Kinda Gay: Queer Visual Artists Throughout History	Language As It Connects and Bind Us
<b>JXJ 2319</b>	Reading Rainbow: Protecting LGBTQ* Patrons, Publications, and Professionals in Libraries	Self Love and Introspection as a Form of Queer Connection	Nothing is Real!
<b>JXJ 3100</b>	"How We Can," Not "Why We Can't": Imagining Liberatory Futures for Trans and Queer Communities	A Crash Course in Fundraising	We Already Are Everywhere: Justifying Our Existence
<b>JXJ 3101</b>			



## BREAKOUT 4

SATURDAY, 4:00 P.M.

Navigating the Scene as a Trans+ Performing Arts Professional

The Impacts of Student Activism: How Community Care Can Help

Are You There, God? It's Us, The Queers

Intentional Housing Community for Transgender and Nonbinary Students

Queer Art Talk - Keith Haring

Analyzing the Effectiveness of Media

Queer and Trans Inclusive Sex Ed

Laughing Out Loud: Bridging Social Gaps Through Comedy

Fighting for Change: Strategies for Increased LGBTQIA+ Campus Inclusion

Microscopic: The Tiny Queer Voice In STEM

Thinking Outside the Pillbox: The Alternative Rx for Mental Health

Stronger Together: Collaboration and Cooperation Across Institutions

## BREAKOUT 5

SUNDAY, 10:45 A.M.

Queer History: A Timeline

Flyover Country, LGBTQ+ activism firsts in the Midwest

Fat, Queer, and Pop Culture- Navigating Personal Identity in Cosplay

Creating History: Queer and Trans Fashion + Patch Making Session

Drag History: Activism and Celebration



## OTHER SCHEDULE DETAILS

### Overall schedule

*Pages 2-3 and [mblgtacc.org/schedule](https://mblgtacc.org/schedule)*

### Tracks, formats, and content warnings

*Pages 19-21*

### Glossary of terms

*[mblgtacc.org/glossary](https://mblgtacc.org/glossary)*



BREAKOUT

# SESSION ONE

Saturday, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

## Queer and Trans Joy: A Form of Community Care

JXJ 1311 | Sawyer Federinko



This workshop defines Queer and Trans Joy and Community Care, emphasizing the lived experiences of the participants in the workshop. Featuring activities to engage in this conversation as individuals and community members, this presentation reminds us that Queer and Trans Joy are sacred, but they aren't radical, once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Rather, these experiences are part of our every day lives, and sharing these moments in community is powerful.

## The Right Tool For The Job

JXJ 1313 | Kara Black



For activism that is genuinely effective at creating change, most of the important work happens behind the scenes, long before anyone makes a sign, chants into a megaphone, or chains themselves to construction equipment. It is important then to learn how to actually DO that behind-the-scenes work. This presentation will provide a basic introduction to organizing meaningful activist actions and organizations, with a focus on universities and rural communities.

## The Call is Coming from Inside the House: Making Sense of the Current Political Climate

JXJ 1315 | Ginney Norton

JUSTICE

This session examines how homonationalism haunts education by selectively including 2SLGBTQIA+ identities while excluding marginalized groups. Participants will explore the politics of visibility, the impact of exclusion, and how schools can become spaces for healing. Through case studies and interactive activities, the session highlights strategies for resisting these internal threats and fostering inclusive, restorative educational practices.

## Activism and Becoming an Activist

JXJ 1317 | Marissa Jayne Wolfe and Kate Wolfe

ACTIVISM

Transgender activist Marissa Jayne Wolfe discusses growing up, transitioning overnight in 2009, and her journey in becoming an activist: fighting for her job and child, her impact on Michigan gender law and the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act and corporate policy, helping establish UP Pride, different ways to document and report abuses, legal avenues for change, and how you can fight back and get involved in activism. She will also be promoting her LGBTPOC Spectrum Flag.

## No Walls Between Us: Palestine 101

JXJ 1318 | Stephanie Skora

ACTIVISM

The movement for justice in Palestine is currently reaching a pivotal point worldwide, and queer and trans people have a vital role to play! Whether advocating for change in our communities, working to quash Islamophobia or anti-Arab racism, or working on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, non-Palestinian queer and trans accomplices can make a huge impact in the push for Palestinian liberation. This lecture makes the case for broad queer and trans solidarity with Palestinians from a variety of social justice and historical perspectives, and introduces attendees to the ins and outs of Palestine solidarity organizing.

## LGBTQIA+ Centers as Brave Spaces for Talking About Sex

JXJ 1320 | Susan Harper and Danny Rau

LGBTQIA+ Centers are in a unique position to offer students opportunities for medically accurate, shame-free, queer-inclusive sex education. From workshops to private consultations, these spaces play a vital role in helping our students navigate explorations of relationships, sex, and sexuality. This session presents practices staff at one Midwestern LGBTQIA+ center employ to create a brave space for students. We'll brainstorm a toolkit that fits your environment, so bring your best tip, trick, or technique!

## GaySL

JXJ 1322 | Hayden Kristal

GaySL is a highly-interactive and hilarious workshop led by DearQueer activist and stand up comedian Hayden Kristal that teaches its participants LGBTQ-related American Sign Language signs while also fostering a broader group discussion about horizontal marginalization, intersectionality, and what it means to be intersectionality accessible. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to sign along, and any and all levels of experience with American Sign Language and the Deaf community are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## Korean Uniqueness, Nerve and Talent

JXJ 2315 | Josh Noud

MEDIA

K-pop went from obscure music genre to global phenomenon practically overnight and it can be largely attributed to masses of queer fans and gay twitter. This panel will discuss the history of K-pop and it's relevancy to queer communities worldwide today.



## Navigating Barriers in Higher Education Identity Offices

JXJ 2317 | Atticus White and Glenn Means



How do college advisors navigate an ever-changing legislative landscape that impacts not only students but also themselves? How do we balance personal connections to the impact of legislation and support for our students? How do we manage burn-out while doing the work but having a good work-life balance? This workshop aims to connect advisors and discuss strategies to support LGBTQ\* students amid massive anti-LGBTQ\* and anti-DEI legislation.

## Reading Rainbow: Protecting LGBTQ\* Patrons, Publications, and Professionals in Libraries

JXJ 2319 | Jay Stringer-Vaught



So far, more than 4,000 individual book titles have been removed from shelves in libraries and schools this year. LGBTQ\* and identity-centric are among the main targets of censorship as community libraries are encroached by Alexandrian fires brought on by political polarization and public distrust of higher learning. In this presentation, attendees will hear one trans\* librarian's experience post Kentucky's SB 167 and how they are working to combat censorship in their position as resident librarian at UK's Office of LGBTQ\* Resources.

## "How We Can," Not "Why We Can't": Imagining Liberatory Futures for Trans and Queer Communities

JXJ 3100 | Kalyani Kannan



Imagine a liberatory future for your community. What does it look like? Who is there? Our contributors engaged in a 3-day think tank around these and other questions and invite participants to journey with us to imagine what liberatory futures for trans and queer campus communities might entail. Note: This space is intended to be liberatory, so while we will not be focusing on the "-isms" (e.g., racism, sexism, transphobia, etc.), it is likely that these issues will be brought up.

# 2

BREAKOUT

# SESSION TWO

Saturday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

2

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

## Burnout and Beyond: Healing for Queer Joy

JXJ 1311 | Gianna Mask

CARE  A BH F R S T

Burnout can be exceptionally common for the queer community. With intersections between neurodiversity, mental health, and other groups, the likelihood of burnout happening to you or those within your community can increase considerably. Join me as I share techniques that I use to manage and heal when I experience burnout. By learning techniques to manage our mental health, we can be more present and reclaim (or claim) queer joy!

## Social Media Advocacy 101

JXJ 1313 | Kristin Ravel, Melisa Kraus and Scarlet Torrisi

MEDIA  BH T

In this session, attendees will gain inspiration and practical knowledge to build social media campaigns for LGBTQ+ advocacy. Presenters will share their knowledge creating content for a local LGBTQIA+ nonprofit, The LIAM Foundation. Additionally, presenters will lead an interactive tutorial that invites attendees to consider how they may use free digital tools in their own advocacy work or in collaboration with an organization.

\*Bringing a computer or tablet is recommended but not required.

## A is for Aro: Aromanticism 101

JXJ 1315 | Logan Edmonds



Aromanticism is a misunderstood and underrepresented romantic orientation. It's time to change that and rethink the role that romance plays in structuring our lives on every level. This workshop will introduce you to Aromanticism, the Aromantic community, and our struggle for liberation in an Amatonormative world.

## Trans Bodies in Flux: Negotiating Uncertainty in Transition

JXJ 1318 | Thomas Gurinskas



Part presentation, part zine workshop, we will explore how trans people can and do grapple with the uncertainties that come with the rapid physical changes brought on by the hormonal and surgical elements of transition—change we seek out enthusiastically. What's exciting, what's weird, what caught you by surprise? The presentation will incorporate theory alongside real world navigation of those changes, and participants will get to craft one-page zines of their own experiences.

## Gender Bias in Higher Ed: Impact on Trans and Non-Binary Employees

JXJ 1319 | Tyler Treptow-Bowman



This study investigated the impact of gender-based discrimination, workplace characteristics, and personal demographics on transgender and non-binary employees in U.S. 4-year higher education. Using quantitative methods, it assessed employee satisfaction, belonging, and intent to leave. Results showed discrimination significantly reduces satisfaction. Results also showed that certain workplace characteristics improved employee experiences following discrimination. Please join to learn more about this recently completed study!

## Queer Rage: What to do when the joy's not there

JXJ 1320 | Vince Tripi



Amid exclusion, harassment, and trauma, joy can feel out of reach. LGBTQ+ people have every reason for righteous anger, but rage alone isn't transformative—it can consume us. By releasing our rage, we reclaim our power, freeing ourselves from complicity in our own harm. This is how we sustain ourselves and build a lasting legacy.

## Freaks, Femmes, and Ferocity: Drag in the U.S

JXJ 1322 | Vantas (Adam Kellogg)



"We are not here to judge your drag. Drag is art, and art is subjective." - The Boulet Brothers

Drag is beautiful in all sorts of iterations - explore genres, subgenres, and regional differences in the art of drag, examined as products of their surrounding cultures and political context.

## Where Your Privilege Lies

JXJ 2315 | Angie Ramirez and Mitch Ryba



The purpose of this workshop is to analyze the inequalities existing within the LGBTQIA+ community, specifically the disparities among LGBTQ+ BIPOC students. The presentation will explore topics like intersectionality, anti-racism, and cultural humility to encourage discussions on both implicit and explicit biases that exist within the community and among our campuses. Oftentimes the voices and experiences of white individuals are frequently amplified and their needs become the central focus of LGBTQ+ advocacy. In order to recognize intersectional identities within the community, we aim to facilitate discourse and education that encourages LGBTQ+ people to engage in self-reflection and equip them with effective strategies to promote anti-racism efforts within their campus communities that can enable them to uplift BIPOC individuals and their voices. We want campuses and their students to acknowledge the broader challenges that



BIPOC individuals encounter within the community and be able to combat these which begins with honest and open discussions. This workshop would enable students and faculty to acknowledge any potential shortcomings in their institutions or organizations, while also encouraging them to consider how they can improve their interactions with BIPOC LGBTQ+ individuals and foster greater change within their communities.

### That Art is Kinda Gay: Queer Visual Artists Throughout History

JXJ 2317 | Gabe Barnes and Jazz Jensen

MEDIA D S T

The female sculptor that never married but was good friends with her female roommate. The renaissance artist that hired pupils not by skill but based on their chiseled abs. Queer artists, and queer art, have been around since cave paintings; come see for yourself! In this session we will travel through time learning about history, art, art history, historical art, and which one of the Renaissance Ninja Turtles was actually straight.”

### Self Love and Introspection as a Form of Queer Connection

JXJ 2319 | Brigitte A. Ledferd and Freddy Sims Jr.

CARE BH

“What does self-love mean to you? Join us for guided introspection and group reflection on queer joy and embracing your authentic self! This workshop aims to bring a sense of community and connectedness for participants across identities. We hope to create space for queer love, empowering reflection, and tools to bring the spirit of MBLGTACC into the everyday lives of participants. We hope this experience helps you feel grounded and confident in your queer identity!”

### A Crash Course in Fundraising

JXJ 3100 | Jesse Beal

ADVISOR

We all could use some more funding. This session will feature hands-on demonstrations that provide tangible outcomes to help you strategize for fundraising opportunities and other resource-ing.

# 3

BREAKOUT

# SESSION THREE

Saturday, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

## The Forgotten Intersectionality of Disabled Queers

JXJ 1311 | Zero/Zodiac

ACTIVISM  A

Disability is the biggest minority community, with a badge that can be gained at any point. Queerness and disability not only have many things in common, they also have much more of a crossover than people realise. In this presentation, we'll be teaching the basics on what disability is, how queerness and disability overlap, how it's been historically ignored in the queer community, and how we can strive to make that better.

## Intersectional Justice: Queer Activism in the Fight for Liberation

JXJ 1313 | Brigitte A .Ledferd and Freddy Sims Jr.

ACTIVISM  AB A BH C M R S SV SA T V X

Our workshop explores the intersections of queer activism with racial, environmental, and disability justice movements. Through discussions, case studies, and activities, we uncover how systems of oppression compound for those with multiple marginalized identities. Participants will gain practical strategies for building solidarity and driving change, with a focus on collective advocacy. By centering diverse voices, we aim to deepen understanding and inspire a commitment to intersectional justice and liberation for all communities.

## Neuroqueerness: The Overlap in Neurodivergence and Queerness

JXJ 1317 | Crescent Brown and Ginney Norton



Neuroqueerness stands at the connection point between neurodivergence, disability, sexuality, and gender... But what exactly is it? Neuroqueerness is about breaking down walls and redefining “normalcy” through intersectionality and examining overlapping oppressions. This presentation will dig into neuroqueerness from all angles, explaining its history, definitions, and ways people can identify as neuroqueer. Together, we will unravel what it means “to queer” the future and change the world in ways we previously never thought possible.

## Criminalization of QT People in the U.S.

JXJ 1318 | Cornelius U-Jean Baker



Criminalization is a rising issue in the U.S. due to our societies reliance on the carceral system. Criticism of the criminal (in)justice system has become a part of mainstream discussions, especially with more visibility of the infringement on civil liberties. For queer and trans (QT) people, criminalization has a long history but often in ways that are not always acknowledged. This session will show how these issues intersect for the most marginalized in our communities.

## Autism and Transness

JXJ 1319 | Avi Hessel

A community-oriented space for autistic transgender, nonbinary, and/or gender non-conforming folks and their allies to discuss the complex intersection between these identities.

## The Art of (Be)Longing: Queer Love Poetry, Literature, and Media

JXJ 1320 | Mikey Cody Apollo

In this workshop, participants will delve into the depths of relationships, from platonic bonds to romantic rendezvous. Through guided exercises and collaborative discussions, we will unearth the nuances of identity, desire, and connection.

Join us as we share some of our own favorite love stories, read a few example poems, view some movie clips, and craft love poetry and letters for our own beloveds!

## Romancing the Stone: Stone Culture, Identity, and Sexuality

JXJ 1322 | Stephanie Skora and Kalyani Kannan

It’s not just for Lesbians anymore! Stone identity, sexuality, and the pleasure of politics are a unique way of engaging with intimacy that has existed for decades. Now experiencing a resurgence in popular culture through social media and LGBTQ journalism, queers are hungry for knowledge about Stone sex and sexuality. With Romancing the Stone, you can get the information you need about Stone community and maybe even find something about yourself along the way.

## A is for Aro: The Deep Dive

JXJ 2315 | Logan Edmonds



Aromanticism seems simple on the surface, but there is more to this overlooked romantic orientation than it seems. Here, you’ll dive into the details of Amatonormativity, Arophobia, Singlism, and Aromanticism’s complex relationship with Asexuality in this deeper discussion about Aromanticism. This workshop is designed to build on the ideas presented in A is for Aro: Aromanticism 101.

## Language As It Connects and Bind Us

JXJ 2317 | Graciela Best, Lydia Kurtz and Crystal Mandal

This workshop is a guided conversation that explores how anti-queer language and rhetoric is used by oppressive homophobic and transphobic social systems to bind us monolithically as queer people, with a focus on linguistic reappropriation and reclamation as forms of active social revolution and queer liberation.

## Nothing Is Real!

JXJ 2319 | Lucia Morello



The conceptualization of our bodies and relationships to others’ bodies is central to how we navigate the world. Gender/sex/sexuality are so ingrained in us that we take

them for granted. The constructed nature of gender is being discussed, but there are misconceptions within these conversations: confusion between gender performativity and performance, the artificialization of femininity, sex/sexuality as immutable, and blindness to the role the dominant classes play in how we see ourselves.

## **We Already Are Everywhere: Justifying Our Existence**

**JXJ 3100 | Jeff Maliskey and Milton Gomez**

ADVISOR

We know that we (as QT folks) are here, and have always been but central to the work that we do as QT center(ed) diversity practitioners is making what seems apparent more readily intelligible and accessible to stakeholders on our campuses. This Skill Lab aims to provide practitioners with tangible ways to leverage archives, artifacts, and data in ways that make the story of QT folks on campus readily legible to stakeholders, including campus leadership.



# 4

BREAKOUT

# SESSION FOUR

Saturday, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

4

BREAKOUT SESSION 4

## Navigating the Scene as a Trans+ Performing Arts Professional

JXJ 1311 | Dillon Potts and Celeste Michael

MEDIA  

Many find both a career and chosen family within the performing arts, but as trans and nonbinary performing artists, the path to finding community is not always clear. This facilitated discussion seeks to bring together trans and nonbinary performing artists to build community and envision a more trans-inclusive performing arts industry. Performing arts professionals of any skill level and medium (theatre, music, dance, diy/punk, etc) are encouraged to attend. Attendees receive a free zine!

## The Impacts of Student Activism: How Community Care Can Help

JXJ 1313 | Emma Mitchell

CARE      

The presentation brings to light the repercussions of burnout among student activists, attributed to their strenuous work schedules and emotional depletion, and can result in mental and physical health problems. It stresses the significance of community care in combating burnout, and how care can be instrumental in aiding students in their recovery and helping to continue their advocacy. It outlines various ways communities can support student activists, by providing emotional assistance and promoting self-care practices.

## Are You There, God? It's Us, The Queers

JXJ 1315 | Danny Trip



Religion and being a part of the LGBTQ+ community are two identities that many people struggle to reconcile. Christianity is one the most commonly practiced religions in the Midwest, and teachings about the LGBTQ+ community vary widely across denominations. In this presentation, we will explore how religion and queer identities can interact with each other in a healthy way, striving to find a balanced connection.

## Intentional Housing Community for Transgender and Nonbinary Students

JXJ 1317 | Em Wolfe



A 2023 study showing barriers to well-being and success for trans students at Michigan State University led to the development of the Transgender Residential Experience (T-REx) program. This program centers the trans experience and provides more support, intentional community, and resources for trans students than previous gender-inclusive housing options. In this session, we will cover the mission, learning goals, program structure, resources, example programs, preliminary data from our pilot year, and how you can advocate for a similar program at your institution!

## Queer Art Talk - Keith Haring

JXJ 1318 | Jazz Jensen



Art is for everyone so join us for an engaging queer art talk exploring the vibrant legacy of Keith Haring. Delve into Haring's iconic works, which championed LGBTQ+ visibility, social justice, and inclusivity. This discussion will highlight the intersection of his art with queer culture, examining how his bold, graphic style challenged societal norms and celebrated love and diversity.

## Analyzing the Effectiveness of Media

JXJ 1319 | Tessa Hammond



With an influx of bans on queer media, it's important to highlight the sides of visibility and the importance of it while also evaluating how it represents the LGBTQ+ community. Various forms of representation will be shared and how they have impacted (either positively or negatively) the queer community and why visibility matters-also the dangers of it. Knowing how to identify harmful vs. helpful representation stops us from settling for what we are given.

## Queer and Trans Inclusive Sex Ed

JXJ 1320 | Madox Peterson



This is a workshop which was built using the six principles of sexual health. Touching on broader aspects of sex education that most people aren't taught in school. Such as how to have a healthy sexual relationship with another person and the aspect of pleasure and why it is so important

## Laughing Out Loud: Bridging Social Gaps Through Comedy

JXJ 1322 | Hayden Kristal

Laughing Out Loud is a workshop that explores the intersections of comedy and social justice. We talk about the role of comedy in pushing social boundaries, how humor can be used as a tool for advocacy, punching up vs punching down, and we discuss ways for people who are interested to get involved in comedy. Depending on buyer preference and availability, we sometimes have local comedians from diverse backgrounds attend as well to start fostering those connections.

## Fighting for Change: Strategies for Increased LGBTQIA+ Campus Inclusion

JXJ 2315 | April Scarlette Callis and Noah Montague

CAMPUS  

Colleges and universities were created without considering the needs of queer and trans individuals. Many students, faculty, and staff across the country are working hard to amend the policies and cultures at our various institutions. However, what is the best way to do this work? What do we need to know to create meaningful change? Join us as we discuss coalition building, institutional levers of power, and strategies for shifting systems resistant to change.

## Microscopic: The Tiny Queer Voice In STEM

JXJ 2317 | Ethan Boatwright

ACTIVISM    

This panel will cover how the LGBTQ+ community is represented in higher education fields, STEM for example. It is important that we address career motivations in the LGBTQ+ community as well as pay homage to the several talented queer individuals who have made an impact in the world of STEM. We are more than a label, and more than what we do behind closed doors. Gay, lesbian, trans, and other queer people have been underrepresented in the science community. We should have this conversation as a way of allowing the LGBTQ+ in STEM to come out, and not be afraid of showing their true colors in the engineering and science world.

## Thinking Outside the Pillbox: The Alternative Rx for Mental Health

JXJ 2319 | Noemie Durand

CARE   

Traditional mental health treatments, such as medication and talk therapy, often don't work or aren't accessible to marginalized groups. Art and music, dance, massage, animals, and nature are all effective evidence-based interventions, yet are largely underused. This presentation aims to question Western medicine's traditional treatment of mental illnesses, inform participants about research-backed alternative methods of treatment, and provide practical ways to incorporate these practices into their everyday lives.

## Stronger Together: Collaboration and Cooperation Across Institutions

JXJ 3101 | Kalyani Kannan, Danny Rau, and Susan Harper  
with special contributions by Emma Welch

ADVISOR  

How can trans and queer center(ed) professionals collaborate beyond institutional boundaries to better support students? For years, our team has met regularly to provide support, develop strategic initiatives, and connect students across institutions. As careers have shifted, the group has continued to collaborate. This session is for those who want to pursue collaboration with other universities to build regional relationships. Other topics include: letter-writing, professional support, and working smarter not harder.

# 5

BREAKOUT

# SESSION FIVE

Sunday, 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

## Queer History: A Timeline

JXJ 1311 | Alex Lucas

ACTIVISM  AB BH C D M R S SV SU T V

This presentation will discuss past and present events featuring moments of queer activism that are both well-known and potentially lost in history. We will touch on Stonewall and similar events in other countries as well as trans liberation and lesser-known outputs of speaking out. It is extremely vital to know what has happened and what is happening within current events in order to prepare others to continue the outreach needed for our lives.

## Creating History: Queer and Trans Fashion + Patch Making Session

JXJ 1318 | Icarus Jones

MEDIA  A BH R S

This session will highlight the historical relationships between queer and trans people and fashion, mainly iconic fashion advancements made by queer and trans designers/models/artists, etc. This presentation also aims to highlight other marginalized intersecting identities such as queer designers of color, disabled trans artists, etc. Fashion has long been a radical form of self-expression. Materials to make your own patches will be provided as well as examples for inspiration.



## Drag History: Activism and Celebration

JXJ 1320 | Kara Black

Since the 1880s, drag has been a major pillar of LGBTQ+ activism and community. Drag at its best is a celebration, a source of income, a family and home, and a site for organizing community action. This presentation follows the evolution of drag from its origins in Black communities around Washington DC to the present day, with a focus on its power as an engine for liberation and justice.

## Flyover Country, LGBTQ+ activism firsts in the Midwest

JXJ 1313 | Vince Tripi

ACTIVISM  (D)

Join us for a workshop that breaks the myth of the Midwest as a queer desert! Long before the coasts, the Great Lakes led the way on marriage equality, anti-discrimination laws, and LGBTQ activism. Explore bold acts of organizing and landmark legal wins that showcase the vibrant, untold history of queer resilience in "Flyover Country." Discover the Midwest's rich legacy of pride and progress!

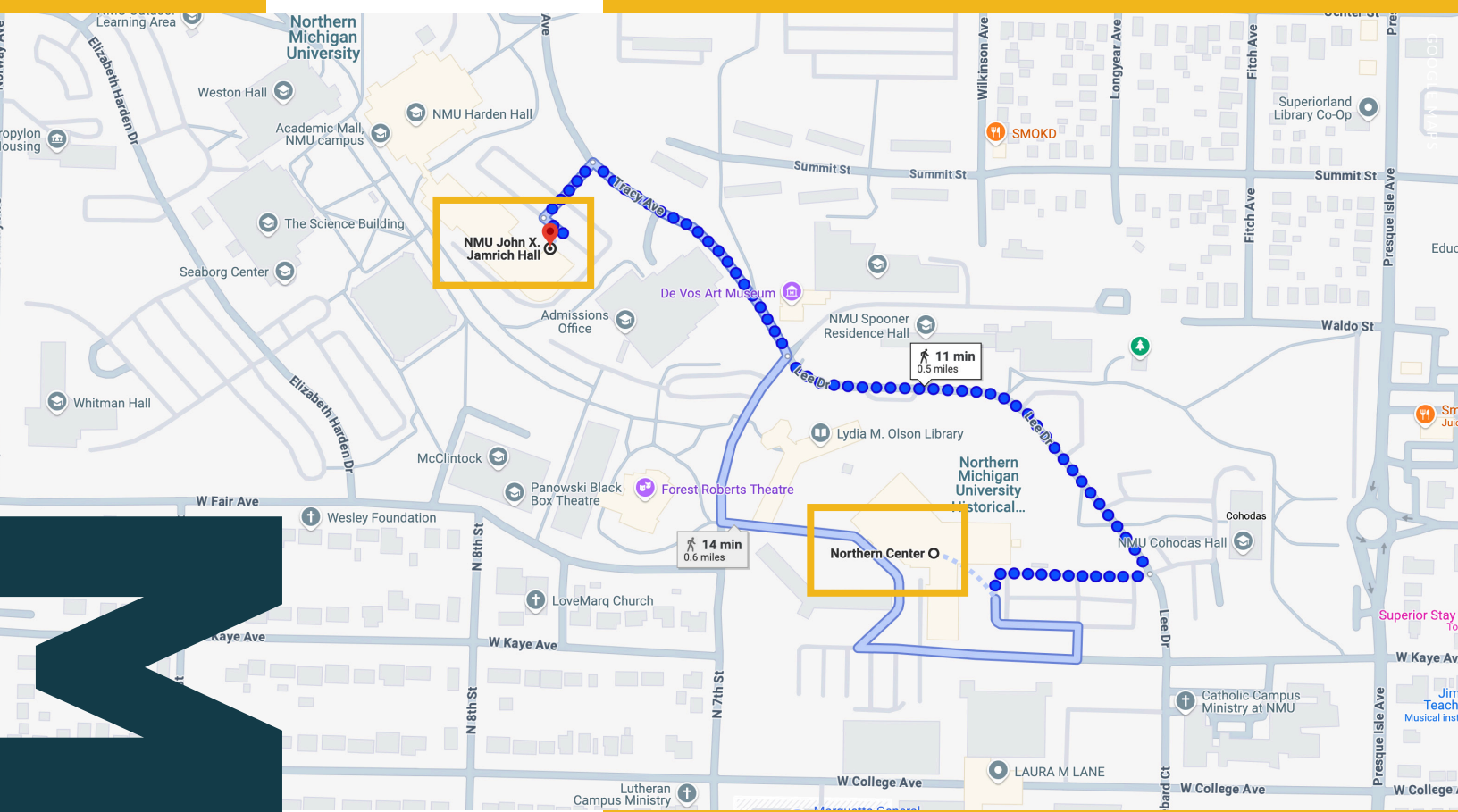
## Fat, Queer, and Pop Culture- Navigating Personal Identity in Cosplay

JXJ 1315 | Jazz Jensen

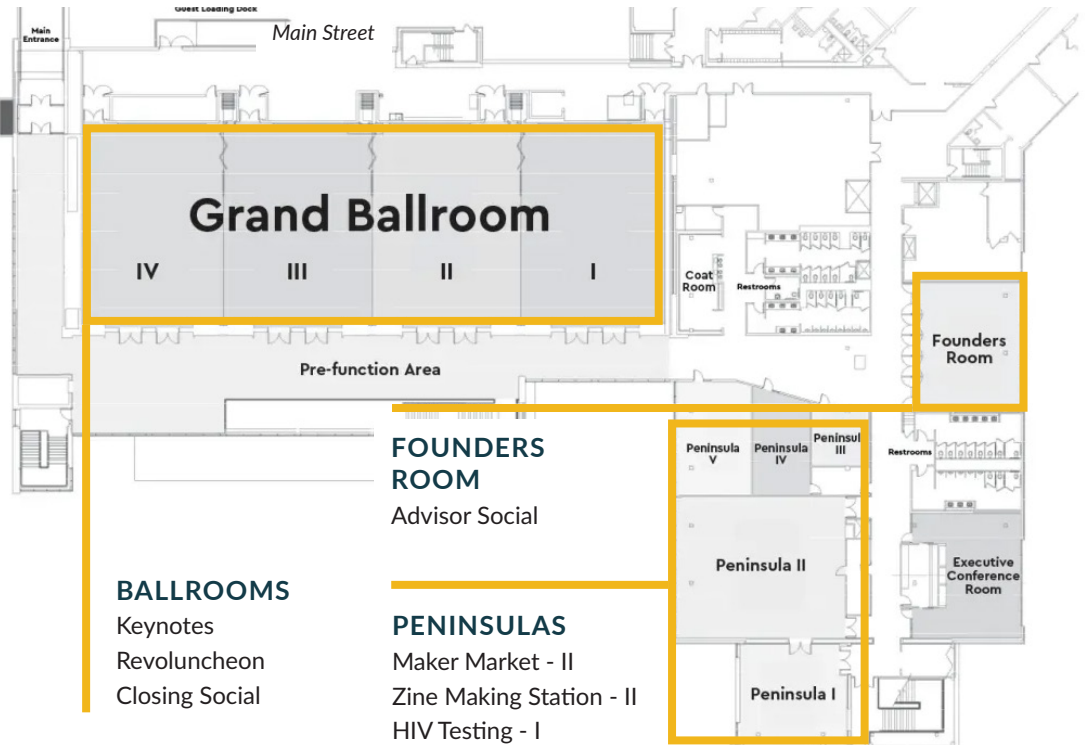
MEDIA  (F)

Join me as we explore the intersection of fatness, queerness and pop culture through the lens of cosplay. I will share my personal journey of 9 years of embracing my identities while navigating the challenges and joys in fandom and being a cosplayer. Explore the importance of representation, body positivity and the power of community. This is an inspiring conversation that celebrates unique narratives within the cosplay world!

# NORTH CAMPUS

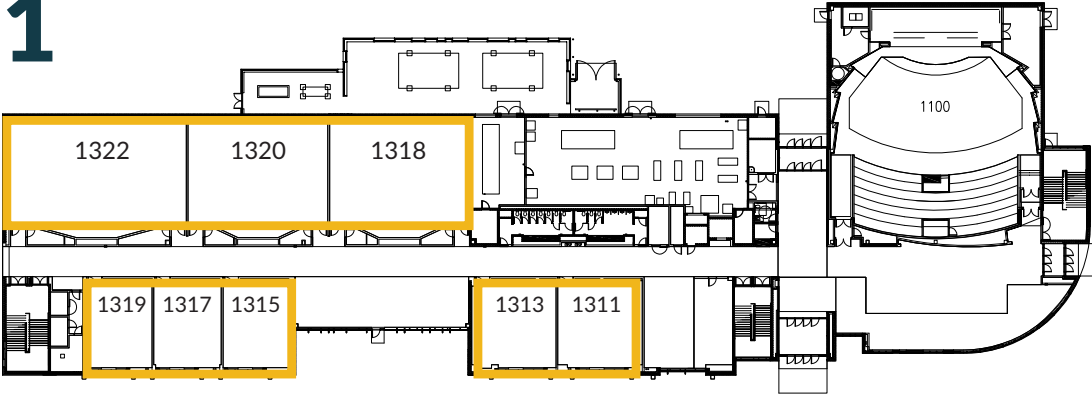


## NORTHERN CENTER

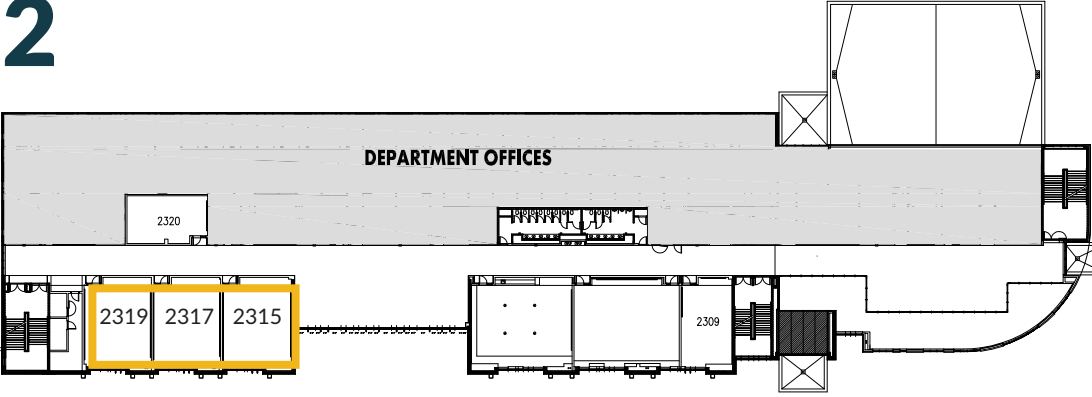


Workshop sessions are held in Jamrich Hall

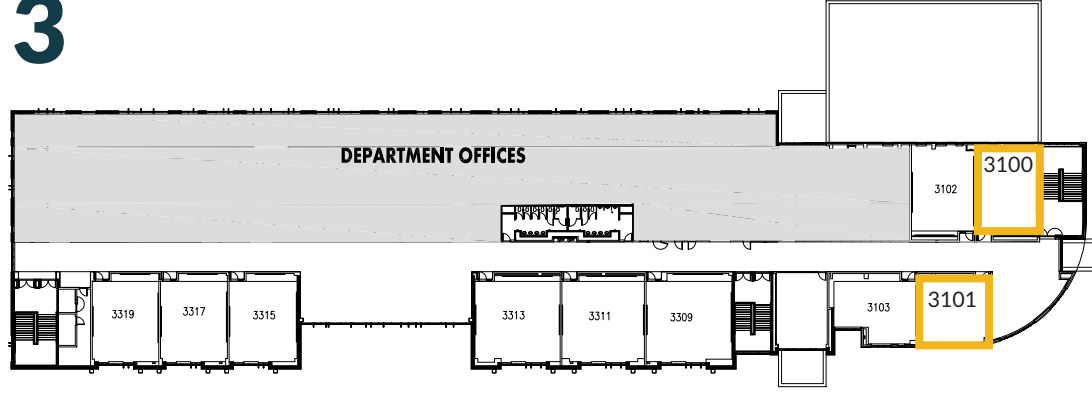
LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 3



FOOD

Scan code for on-campus dining location

# EMERGENCY AND CRISIS INFORMATION

## DIAL 911

An emergency is defined as a life-threatening situation and requires an immediate intervention or response. Examples of an emergency include but are not limited to:

- Fire
- Suicidal thoughts, intent, plans, or life-threatening behaviors
- Immediate medical need

## URGENT ASSISTANCE: (810) 666-1053

Use this line to reach a staff member on the planning committee staff or Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity. You can call or text this number 24/7 during the conference. Please only use this line for crisis or emergency situations. Note that this line is not confidential. For general questions, please visit the information desk. Please notify a conference staff member or call this number to report an emergency situation, especially if 911 is called.

## PHARMACIES

### Nearest pharmacy

**Campus Pharmacy**, 1015 North Third St.,  
Marquette, Mi. 49855 (0.3 mi) via N. 3rd St.

### Narcan

In the case of an opioid overdose, Narcan (Naloxone) is available at the info desk. Notify a conference planner/staff and call (810) 666-1053 IMMEDIATELY.

## OTHER NEEDS

### On-site counselors

Friday, 6:30 - 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Please visit the information desk.

### Quiet room: Peninsula III

Friday, 2:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.



# COMING UP



PODCAST

## Take the Last Bite

We're taking a big ole bite outta "Midwest nice." Stream all five seasons on Apple, Google, and Spotify.

 @TAKE.THE.LAST.BITE



8TH ANNUAL

## Trans(Gender) Justice Teach-in

Online | Coming 2024



WATCH PAST TEACH-INS  
[sgdinstitute.org/programs/transgender-justice](https://sgdinstitute.org/programs/transgender-justice)



MBLG  
TACC  

---

2025

33RD ANNUAL

## Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference

October 31 - November 1  
North Dakota State University

    @MBLGTACC



# MBLG TACC

# 2024

MIDWEST BISEXUAL LESBIAN  
GAY TRANSGENDER ASEXUAL  
COLLEGE CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 25-27, 2024 | MARQUETTE

MBLGTACC.ORG

@mblgtacc

**# MBLGTACC**

@sgdinstitute



**MIDWEST INSTITUTE  
FOR SEXUALITY AND  
GENDER DIVERSITY**



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

The Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference (MBLGTACC) is America's largest and oldest continuously-running conference for queer and trans+ college students. "MBLGTACC," "Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference," and the MBLGTACC logo are servicemarks of the Midwest Institute for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

PO Box 1053, East Lansing, MI 48826 | [sgdinstitute.org](http://sgdinstitute.org)