



eNews: May 2022

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MFF 2022 Founders Retreat Application Now Open!

MFF founder happy hours, member breakfast and startup volunteer day events happening throughout May and June

👏 Nominate a founder for Crain's Detroit 40 Under 40

AgTech entrepreneurs - Apply for the 2023 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge and pitch in Puerto Rico 🚜

Black Ambition Prize application open

Northern MI 📢 Startup Week begins next week

New startup incubator in downtown Holland

Red Cedar Ventures funds UV Angel

🗣️ Local events for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month



FOUNDER TO FOUNDER

Transiency and the road less travelled

Phil Bak, Founder, atNav

So what you'd do, you go buy a package of blank VHS tapes. Then, you get your parents to drive you to Blockbuster where you would rent Die Hard or UHF or Aliens or Platoon. And then you get back home and the magic begins: the movie on one side, the blank tape on the other. And after two hours, you've got your very own personal movie to watch as many times as you want - at least until the VCR ate the tape.

[Read more...](#)



- [MFF Member, KMI, is a featured panelist](#) at Northern MI Startup Week's Space Night May 9
- Blumira [offers free edition](#) of their security monitoring service
- [Livegistics closes \\$6 million](#) seed round
- Former Ford employee and Detroit-based entrepreneur, takes [EV charging startup Plug Zen on roadshow](#)
- Lakeshore Advantage opens [startup incubator in downtown Holland](#)
- Red Cedar Ventures invests in pathogen control technology company [UV Angel](#)
- [University of Michigan student startup, EpiSLS](#) wins \$25,000 prize at national Heartland Challenge competition



Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle provides assistance and support to 3,000 individuals with special needs and their families by providing recreational, social, educational and vocational programming. Friendship Circle enriches its vast network of volunteers by enabling them to reap the rewards of selfless giving. Friendship Circle also provides support to individuals and families struggling with isolation, addiction and other family-related crises.



Friendship Circle aims to promote an inclusive community that values all individuals regardless of the challenges they face.

Learn more: <https://www.friendshipcircle.org/>



EVENTS

APPLY NOW for the 2022 MFF Founders Retreat!

This unique experience is open to all MI-based high-growth entrepreneurs seeking a collaborative forum to discuss real business challenges and goals with a group of like-minded peers. This all-inclusive experience takes place at a private B&B on Lake Michigan and is designed for founders to access leadership growth opportunities and to build meaningful connections and a long-lasting support network to lean on throughout the many stages of the startup journey. MFF will accept 10-12 founders into the 2022 cohort. [Learn more and apply here](#). Deadline: June 1.

May 18: Founder Happy Hour with Start Garden - Michigan Founders Fund is excited to co-host Start Garden's May event in Grand Rapids! Enjoy food, drinks, and conversation with founders, VCs, and startup leaders in the region. [Learn more and RSVP here](#)

May 20: MFF Members Breakfast - Member Breakfasts are an opportunity for Michigan Founders Fund's pledged members to come together, discuss their companies and enjoy a morning meal. The upcoming breakfast will be at Honey Hole Diner in Plymouth. *This event is only for founders who have already signed the MFF MI pledge* (<https://michiganfoundersfund.org/join/>). [Members can RSVP here](#)

June 9: MFF Happy Hour with Cahoots - Michigan Founders Fund is excited to co-host Cahoots' June event! Enjoy food, drinks, and

conversation with founders, VCs, and startup leaders in the Ann Arbor region. [Learn more and RSVP here](#)

June 10: MFF Startup Volunteer Day! - We are excited to create opportunities for founders and their teams to build relationships while getting involved in the community and having fun outside of the office! Next month, we're partnering with [Congress of Communities](#) in Southwest Detroit to co-host a volunteer day to clean up the neighborhood surrounding their new community center. Space is limited. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to let your employees get active in the community and do some company team-building! [Learn more and sign up your team in advance here](#)



- [Nominate a founder](#) for Crain's Detroit 40 Under 40 by May 20th
- [Apply for a seat](#) at the MI Growth Capital Symposium "VC Experts and Emerging Entrepreneurs Dinner" on May 17th
- Black and Latinx entrepreneurs - [Apply for up to \\$1M](#) through the Black Ambition Prize! Applications are for those building startups in consumer products and services, media and entertainment, healthcare, technology, and Web 3.0
- Deadline extended to May 13 to apply for [2023 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge](#). This national competition showcases startups developing solutions that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau will award \$165,000 to ten businesses, culminating at a live pitch competition and networking event in San Juan, PR. The winner will be awarded \$50,000 provided by sponsors Farm Credit, Bayer Crop Science, John Deere, Farm Bureau Bank and Microsoft
- [TCNewTech](#) offers pitch competitions and other ways to get

involved in the tech community in Traverse City

- [Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#) with the Detroit Institute of Arts
- Check out the [Jewish Historical Society of Michigan](#) for events celebrating Jewish heritage

The **Michigan Founders Fund (MFF)** is a vibrant hub for peer learning and networking that enables local entrepreneurs to turn business success into positive community impact.

Interested in becoming a member? Please contact us at community@michiganfoundersfund.org.



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