

Kalamazoo Valley Museum  
230 North Rose Street  
PO Box 4070  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070  
269.373.7990  
[kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org)

Arcadia Commons Campus  
202 North Rose Street  
PO Box 4070  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070  
269.373.7800

Bronson Healthy Living Campus  
PO Box 4070  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070  
269.548.3205

The Groves Campus  
7107 Elm Valley Drive  
PO Box 4070  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070  
269.353.1253

Texas Township Campus  
6767 West O Avenue  
PO Box 4070  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070  
269.488.4400



June 28, 2021

Dear colleagues,

In keeping with the adage “good things come to those who wait,” the staff at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Planetarium have remained committed to hosting the 57th annual Great Lakes Planetarium Association conference this fall in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Since this will be GLPA’s first in-person event since we last gathered in Toledo, Ohio in 2019, this year’s conference will be a great opportunity to renew friendships, network, meet with sponsors, and learn about what has transpired in our field.

This year’s conference will be held November 10–13 in both the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Radisson Plaza Hotel. This is a great conference site, with the hotel and museum only a few hundred meters from each other.

The museum is home to a newly updated flatscreen theater as well as a 50’, 109-seat, Digistar 7 planetarium. Both venues will be used by our conference sponsors as they showcase their products, share their latest news, and screen full-length shows. In addition, the museum’s galleries will also be open for those that would like to learn about Kalamazoo’s history, including connections to Gibson guitars, Checker cabs, and an assortment of medical innovations by Upjohn, Pfizer, and Stryker.

Traditional conference activities such as paper sessions, workshops, and featured talks will be held in both the museum and the Radisson Plaza Hotel. The hotel features a large ballroom for our invited speakers. Dr. Shannon Schmoll, director of the Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University, will once again present the Astronomy Update. Karrie Berglund, of Digitalis Education Solutions, will give the Armand Spitz lecture this year, titled “A Voice in the Dark.” As part of GLPA’s continued commitment to equity and inclusivity, Trice Batson of Kalamazoo Valley Community College will provide additional insights that we can consider both individually and as a profession to help us grow. Finally, Grant Harkness of the Organization for the Proliferation of Space Studies will help us learn more about meteorites and his organization’s efforts to help excite people about space both in the United States and abroad.

Conference delegates should find both the museum and hotel to be both comfortable and accommodating to a multitude of individual needs, including spacious conference facilities, nursing rooms, family-friendly restrooms, and spaces for people to relax or get together to converse. For families or post-conference activities, the Gilmore Car Museum and the Air Zoo, an aerospace museum, are two of many unique places in the Kalamazoo area. Please visit [discoverkalamazoo.com](http://discoverkalamazoo.com) for more information about things to do while you are in town.

We understand that some facilities and individuals may not have the resources or institutional support to attend in person this year. The GLPA Executive Committee has worked hard not only to offer scholarship opportunities, but also develop an option to access the conference virtually.

We look forward to having you join us this year, be it in person or online. As with any GLPA conference that I have attended, I hope that you will also be able to take away a renewed sense of energy, learn new things, and use the knowledge you have gained to continue to keep your planetarium the wonderful place that it already is and make it even better.

Sincerely,



Mark Reed  
Planetarium & Theater Manager  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum



Steve Crawford  
Theater & Planetarium Technologist  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum