

Gather.town: How-to

Gather.town combines video calling with an interactable 2D map, creating a virtual space within which you can move around and talk to other attendees, much like you might at an in-person conference. We'll be using Gather.town mainly to host our **Startup Booths** and **Student Research Posters** for viewing, but it will also be open to as a space to accommodate networking.

Before you join the space:



You will need to use **Chrome** or **Firefox** to connect from a computer (not a phone or tablet). Please ensure that you are not logged in to a VPN. Upon entering the site, you may be prompted to give Gather access to your camera and microphone. If you are having AV issues, please refer to our [Troubleshooting Guide](#).



Moving around:

Move around the venue by pressing the arrow keys on your keyboard or letter keys WASD.

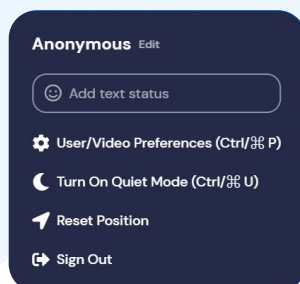


If people or objects are in your way, press and hold “**G**” on your keyboard to enable **ghost mode** - this is an easy way to get out of a crowded area as it allows you to walk through obstacles. Entering a private area will disable ghost mode.



Getting Situated:

There are many useful Gather.town features located on the navy menu bar, located in the bottom-center of your screen.



Clicking on your name will bring up a menu with multiple options. You can use the **text status** to add relevant information (if you are representing a startup, you could include the name of your startup, if you are a MIT student or alum, you could include your major and graduation year). This information will appear under your name on the people column located at the left side of your screen.



Getting Situated (cont.):



The **Mini-Map Button** will bring up a mini map. This map lacks relevant details, and we recommend you instead use the **Map Object** located in the middle of the gather space (see **Map Object** in the [Other Gather Interactions](#) section).



The **React Button** can be used to display emojis. You can click on the symbols or use the numbers on your keyboard.



Setting up your avatar (optional):

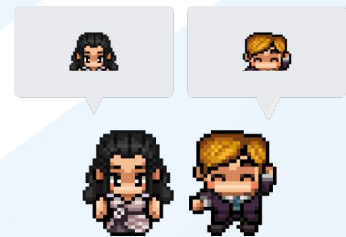
Click on the avatar on the very left of your navy menu bar (located in the bottom-center of your screen) to select a character to represent you:

Changing your character's "shirt" will also change the general appearance, including hair color.



Interacting with people:

You will automatically be entered into a video call with participants within 2 tiles of you. This will allow you to speak "face-to-face" with other participants who are in close proximity.



There is also an option to turn on **Quiet Mode**. This limits your interaction distance, and you will only hear people that are directly adjacent to your avatar.

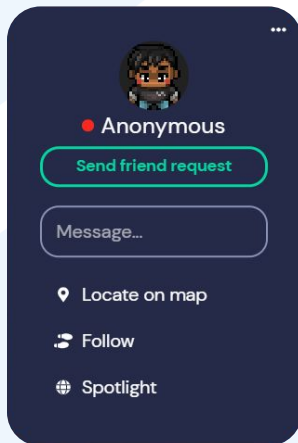


If you are in Quiet Mode, a red circle will be displayed next to your avatar and your name on the participants list.



Interacting with people (cont.):

If you want to communicate privately, check out the **Conversation Carpet/Rugs/Table** entry in the [Interacting with Posters and Startups](#) section. You can also send them a message by clicking on their name in the participant list.



You can curate a **friends list** by clicking the name of another participant and clicking on the “send friend request button”.

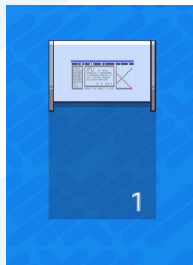
If you want to find someone you have interacted with before, you can click **locate on map** on their name to find them. This will draw a path between your current location and their location.



Interacting with Posters and Startups:

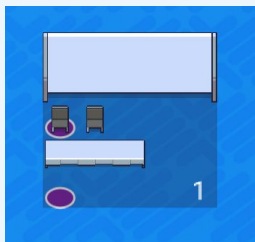
Student Posters

To view a poster, walk into the **shadow** below the poster and press **x**.



If you know in advance that you want to view a specific poster, as listed in the [poster list](#), you can find it by number or find the poster author in the participants list and **locate** them - you will have a path drawn from your current location to their location (which may not be at their poster!).

Startup Showcases



Some booths will have **demonstration videos** playing on a TV object or poster **bulletins**, which you can walk up to and press **x** to interact with.

Some booths will have **slideshow presentations** which can be viewed by walking up to the table and pressing **x**.

You can also interact with representatives at the booth just as you would interact with anyone else on the platform. In addition, you can have a 1-on-1 conversation by stepping onto the circle in front of the desk.



Other Gather Interactions:

Conversation carpet, rug, or table



By stepping onto a “conversation carpet” together or sitting around the same table, you and other attendees will be entering an isolated conversation area; you will not hear anyone else who is close by unless they too step onto your rug or join your table.

Zoom bulletin portal



Quickly hop back to the main event zoom room by pressing **x** near this bulletin found in the center of the room.



Map Object



Walking up to the **Map Object** in the center of the room and pressing **x** will bring up a detailed map of the Gather space. You can use this map to locate [Startup Showcases](#), [Student Posters](#), and the [Help Desk](#). A copy of the **Map** is also included at the [end of this guide](#).



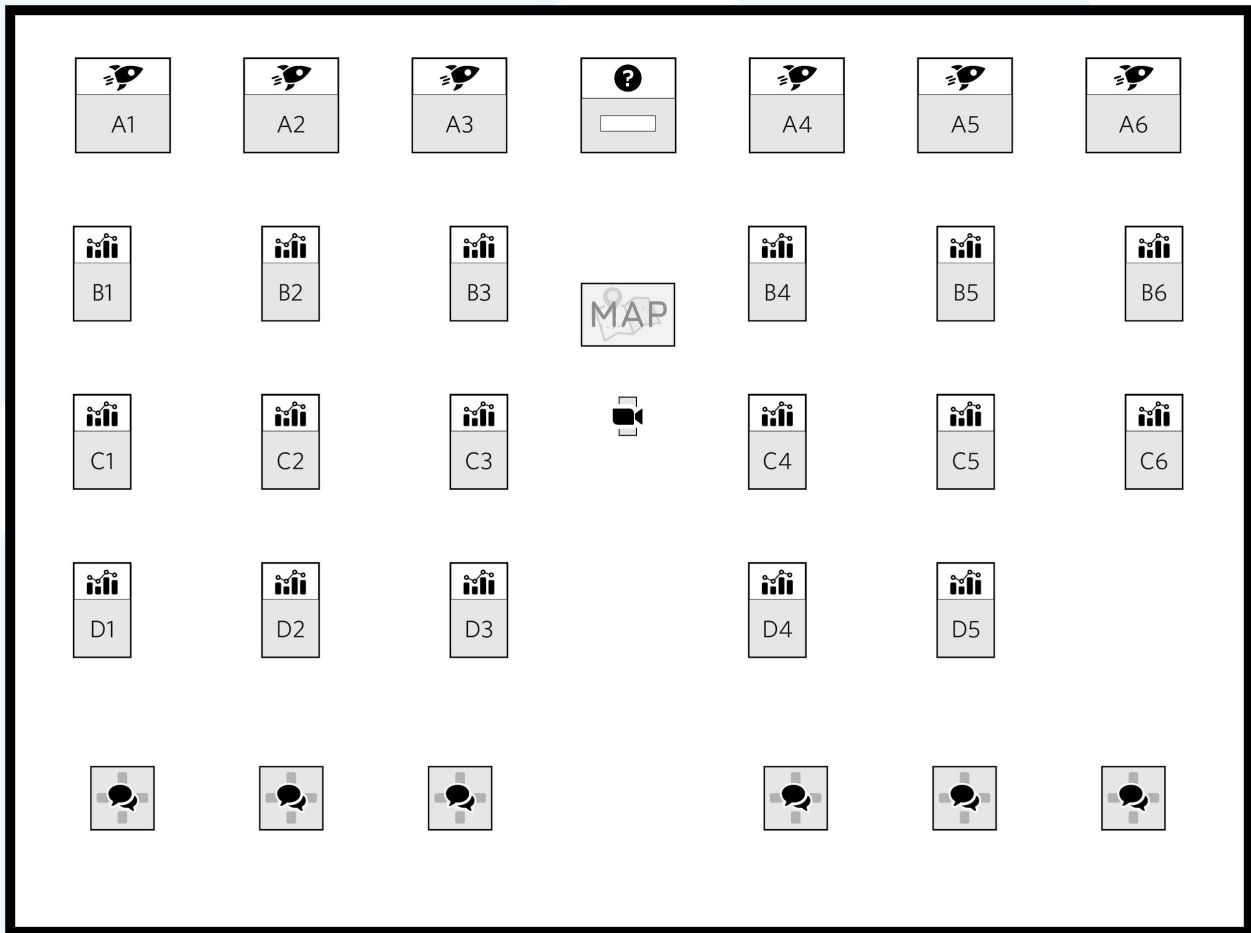
Help desk:

If you have a question, visit the **Help Desk** located at the top of the map to communicate with a member of the Summit’s planning committee. You can also raise your hand (see the [Getting Situated](#) section), and a member of the help desk will send you a direct message.




If a member of the help desk is not immediately available, you can check out this [Troubleshooting Guide](#) for help fixing common issues. When in doubt, just refresh!

Map & Legend



 Startup Booths

 Research Posters

 Conversation Tables

 Help Desk

 Zoom Portal