

# Introduction to the YGM Gather Space<sup>1</sup>

*Gather is a wonderful new tool for getting to both explore and chat with other people. It is also a very new tool and has a few quirks. This document is to help you with the basics so you can discover and play on your own.*

*Gather is a virtual meeting place that simulates some aspects of real-world interactions and allows for casual participant interactions. It also provides a space, e.g. to initiate and continue discussions and collaborations.*

*We are pleased to offer a Gather space for the duration of the Young Geometers Meeting. We invite you to explore and use this space during this time frame, meet other participants and colleagues, plan collaborations or just chat.*

## **What you need:**

- A desktop/laptop with a mic and camera.
- A web browser (we recommend using either *Chrome/Chromium* or *Firefox*).
- We strongly recommend using *headphones* to help prevent feedback.

## **How it works:**

- Gather is a video chat platform that has avatars move around a map. As you get close to other avatars, your videos will pop up and you will be able to chat.
- Move around the space using the *arrow keys*.
- By moving your avatar around you can have spontaneous conversations with those around you. These can be either one-on-one or small groups depending on how many people are around your avatar.
- When your avatar moves closer to an interactable object, it will glow yellow and there will be a notification that shows up saying 'Press x to interact with -object-'. This includes e.g. informational flyers, posters and integrated Zoom meetings.

## **Description of Areas**

For the YGM you have the following areas where you can Gather to chat and/or collaborate from *April 19–23, 2021*. These rooms are for poster sessions and casual meetings, as the talks will be streamed via Zoom.

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from the official introduction, which can be found here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kngaWIQSHISOfNq6S2s9SLy\\_o6GvLMmkxcpv4AvuMrc/view](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kngaWIQSHISOfNq6S2s9SLy_o6GvLMmkxcpv4AvuMrc/view)

## Lobby

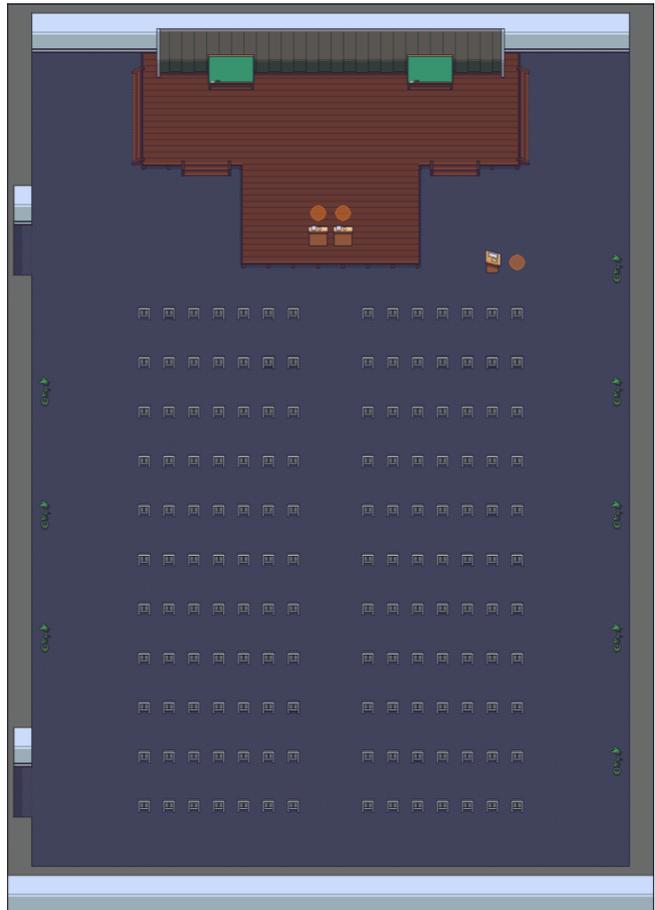
You enter the meeting here. This is where the poster session will take place, and it provides public and private spaces, including whiteboards.

The northern doors lead to the *lecture hall*, and the western door leads to the *roof*.



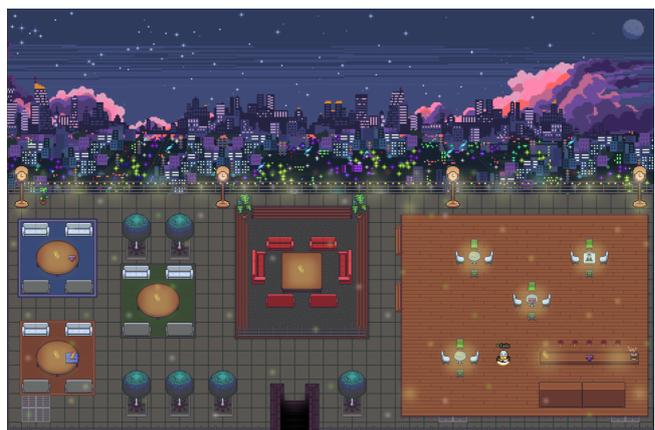
## Lecture Hall

The lecture hall, including a Zoom link for the lectures. It also provides whiteboards, e.g. for questions and discussions.



## Roof

A hang out area, which can be used for gatherings, and public or private discussions.



## Icon Explanation:



Screen sharing ability



Change your *avatar* character and clothing



Mini map to preview the space you're in



Emotes that appear above your avatar.



Opens the *settings* menu:

- Change Name
- Change Audio/Video Devices
- Respawn button to return to start
- Click for Mod Settings: Change room password, change mod message, toggle force mute whole space

## Not-So-Obvious Features

Here are some things you might find useful but aren't immediately obvious.

- There is a *messaging feature* that allows you to message people in four ways:
  1. *individually* by clicking on their name in the participant panel,
  2. *locally* to the people you are video chatting with,
  3. *room chat* (must be requested) with all the people in the current room you are in,
  4. *globally* to all people in your map.
- There is a *locate feature* to find others by clicking their name in the participant panel. The participant panel is the bottom-most option in your toolbar on the left.
- Interaction distance is sometimes altered by *designated private spaces*. This allows conversations to only include people inside that space.
- Want to *full screen someone else's video*? Just click on their video.
- Talking to a group of people? Click the down arrows centered below the video to shift into *grid view*.

## Privacy

We have three ways for you to control who has access to your map:

- You can add a *password* via the mod setting for a room
- If you want to only allow certain people you can create an *email whitelist* here.
- *Domain whitelists* allow the moderator to allow entry into the space for all those who share the same email domain (ex. something@gather.town)

For managing people who are already in the space we have the following options:

- Any moderator has the ability to *ban* individuals during the event

## Technical Difficulties

- Refreshing the page will fix most things!
- If that doesn't work, try muting and unmuting your mic and camera in Gather.
- Check if your browser permitted camera and mic access.
- Additional troubleshooting at <https://gather.town/video-issues>.