





### Meet the Market Manager

- Downtown Big Rapids Farmers Market
- Market is operated by the City of Big Rapids
- Other roles include City Recreation Director, D&A Director, and Community Pool Director



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# CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

## See you in downtown Cadillac! May 30-31

Join other like-minded communities at the 2024 Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) state-wide conference in Cadillac, Michigan! CEC is a one-of-a-kind conference designed to share ideas from entrepreneurial communities, learn about helpful resources, and empower each other to support local entrepreneurs. Participants will also learn best practices from state and local entrepreneurial professionals.

A signature element of this unique event is that all breakout sessions are embedded within downtown community buildings and storefronts. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and fully experience downtown Cadillac. There is plenty of time to walk, talk, and patronize local businesses between sessions.

The conference runs from noon Thursday, May 30 to noon Friday, May 31. The registration fee includes lunch in Cadillac, Thursday evening networking event, breakfast, two local entrepreneur keynotes, and 20+ breakout sessions. Each attendee will be able to attend five sessions. *Registrants are responsible for reserving and paying for their own accommodations.*

- Early registration: \$125 (through April 1)
- Normal registration: \$150 (ends May 29)
- At the door: \$175

To learn more or register for CEC:  
[www.canr.msu.edu/cec/CECregister](http://www.canr.msu.edu/cec/CECregister)



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**2024 SESSIONS**

- The Future of Tech Entrepreneurship in Northwest Michigan
- Empowerment for All: The After 26 Project's Mission of Inclusion
- Economic Impacts of High-Quality Early Childhood Education
- Cadillac: A Pure Michigan Trail Town Leveraging Public and Private Partnerships
- Private-Public Fund Supports Local Commercial and Industrial Development
- The Sandbox: Collaborative Efforts to Serve the Cadillac Area
- Busting Barriers and Enhancing Engagement through Data
- Expanding Businesses in Cadillac: Struggles and Successes of Local Business Owners
- Hwy 131 Corridor Improvements: A Multi-County Collaborative
- Small Communities, Big Impact: Tourism Promotion Insights
- Find Your People! Tips for Workforce Attraction in a Rural Community
- Michigan Art Share: Creating opportunities for Michigan artists, performers, & communities.
- MEDC Incentives: Programs to Foster Local Business
- Farmers Markets Serve as Small Business Incubators
- Achieving Rural Prosperity with Entrepreneurial Communities
- Short Term Rentals: Regulatory Options and Trends in Michigan
- Building a Vibrant Food Scene: The Entrepreneur's View
- Missing Middle Housing: What Is It and Where Do We Start?
- Cadillac Area Nonprofit Network: Good Things Happen When Local Leaders Talk
- Visitor Perspectives Are Worthless For Our Community and Businesses.. Or Are They?
- A Walking Tour: Designing Our Downtowns for Crime Prevention
- Cadillac's Creatives: Collaboration in the Gig Economy
- When Community Music Collaborates: Gopherwood Music + Jam & Bread
- Development in Cadillac: Current Projects and Future Plans

**Stay for the weekend?**

Check out accommodations and things to do in the Cadillac area...

<https://cadillacmichigan.com/cec/>



**Keynote Speakers:**

- **Why Cadillac?** Lee Richards and Christophe Lavigne
- **Cultivating Agriculture in Cadillac:** NanBop Farm, Cadillac Winery, Cadillac Farmers Market, Lume



All sessions are held inside local downtown businesses!

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