

Introducing the Van Andel Museum!

Danielle Melching (MI), 2021 Annual Conference Committee Planning Member

Greetings from Michigan! My name is Danielle Melching, I am a member of the 2021 Annual Conference Planning Committee. I would like to take a brief moment to introduce the Van Andel Museum, located in downtown Grand Rapids - where the welcome event is being held.

The Van Andel Museum was first established in 1854, making it the oldest museum in Michigan! The museum that we see today opened in 1994 and is made up of more than 250,000 special artifacts. In the fall of 2015, the Van Andel Museum collaborated with the Grand Rapids Public Museum School, as well as Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kendell Collage of Arts and Design and the city/downtown of Grand Rapids to help offer educational programing and hands-on learning experiences for learners to explore culture, history and science.

The Van Andel Museum is focused on providing an environment that will interest a diverse audience. There is a wide range of exhibits throughout the museum that will surely interest all age ranges. The museum also includes a curiosity shop (where you can find a souvenir) and a café (where you can grab a to-go snack, beverage, pre-packed lunch or bakery item). Lastly, there is an online shop which can be found [here](#).

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Van Andel Museum for our 2021 Annual Conference!

