



2021 AAEOY Pre-Award Gala

Date: Sat, July 17, 2021

Time: 1:30-3:00PM PDT, 4:30-6:00PM EST

Attire: Business Casual

Bring your favorite drink and glass for toasting

Introduction:

AAEOY Pre-award Gala is an invitation-only event for awardees, speakers, sponsors, committee members and important guests. As an AAEOY tradition, it connects the participants, congratulates this year's AAEOY award recipients, and prepares them for the next day's award ceremony.

This year, due to the pandemic, we are unable to meet in person. Therefore, our volunteers crafted a unique online venue specifically designed for AAEOY: with a ballroom, tables with seating arrangement, exhibitions, welcome stations, a photo booth, etc. We will welcome you at the entrance of the virtual venue.

Program:

- The AAEOY gala starts with guests mingling and exploring the interactive exhibitions, followed by the main program that will be hosted by MC in the virtual ballroom.
- During the reception session, guests will have opportunities to chat privately and take group pictures while toasting virtually on screen, in a virtual space mimicked from the real convention center.
- From the virtual TV screen in the hallway, you will find exhibitions dedicated to showcase this year's awardees, highlight AAEOY memorable moments, acknowledge the generous sponsors, and appreciate the hard-working volunteers.
- MC and AAEOY Chair will start the main program, with a welcome remark from Dr. William James Perry.
- Remarks will also be delivered to appreciate all the participating entities, volunteers, and sponsors. Awardees will be introduced to all attendees on stage and will take group pictures.
- The program will end with briefing of the subsequent AAEOY activities including award ceremony, career fair, and free networking time.

Guests Preparation:

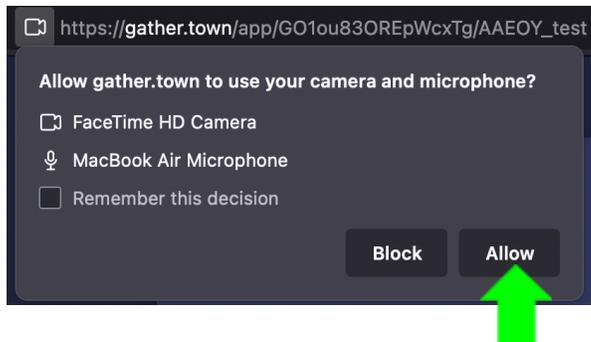
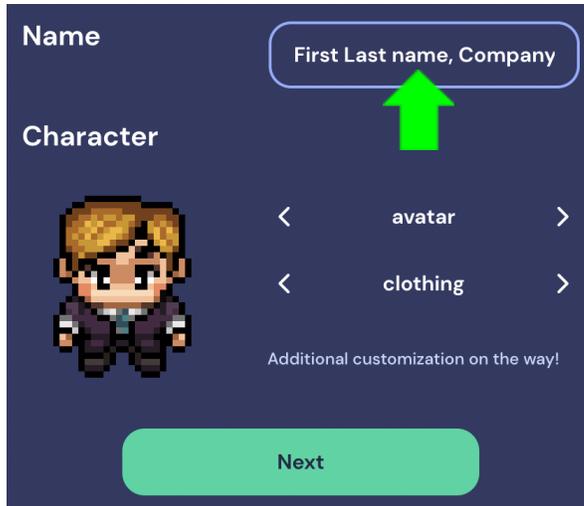
Due to the uniqueness of the new virtual venue, it is highly recommended to test out the virtual platform, so you will enjoy the event without any technical issues.

Please take about 3 minutes and follow 5 steps below to get you ready to meet others.

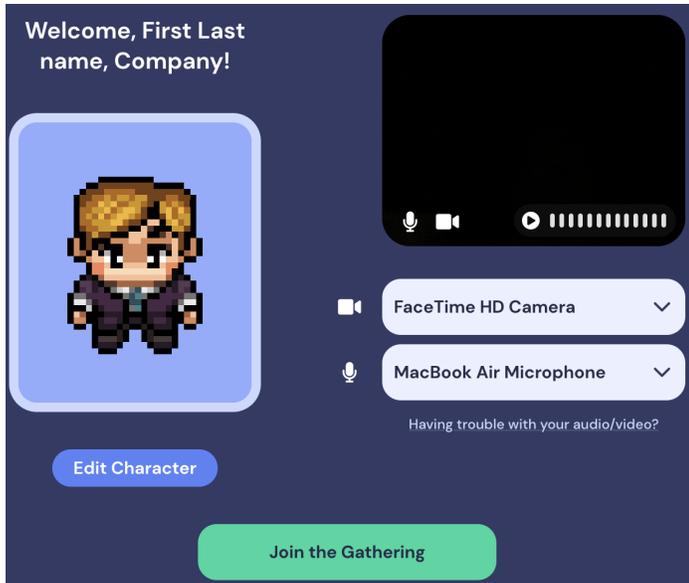
- 1) Sit in front of a **laptop or desktop** with a webcam, mic, and speaker. **Phone or tablet is not recommended**. Open your browser, **Chrome/firefox** are strongly recommended
- 2) [Click this "test space" link](#) to open in a browser page

https://gather.town/app/GO1ou83OREpWcxTg/AAEOY_test

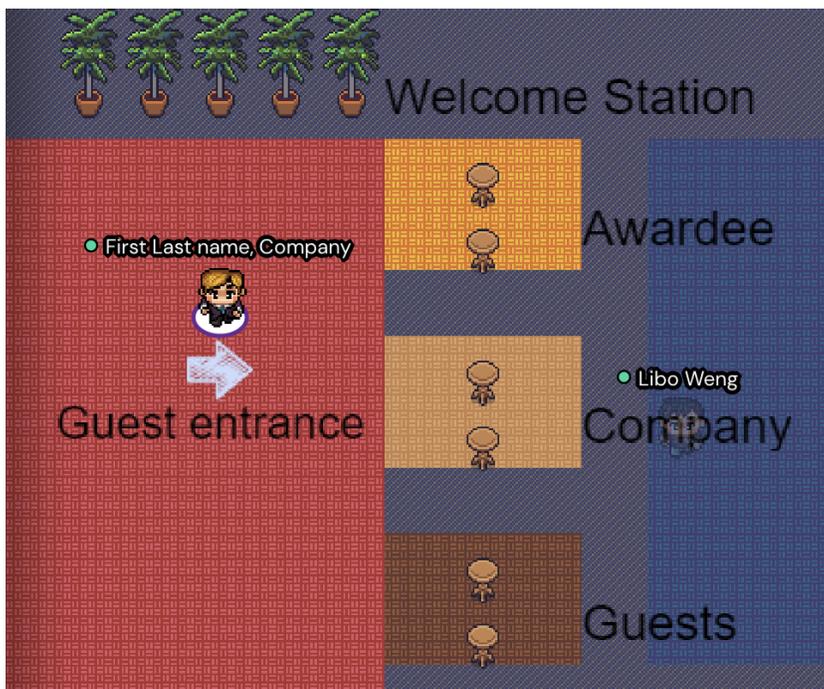
- 3) Type in your **first last name and company name**. Pick a character you like. Click Next, to allow camera and microphone access. You will need to turn on the camera and microphone during this event.



- 4) Click "Join the Gathering". Enjoy a 2-min quick Tutorial on how to move around, mute audio/video, and interact with objects.



- 5) You will arrive at the guest entrance, with welcome stations for awardees, participating company reps, and all other guests. Feel free to explore this testing space. Refresh the browser page if you can't hear others or anything weird happens. We will provide the link to the real venue later for 7/17.

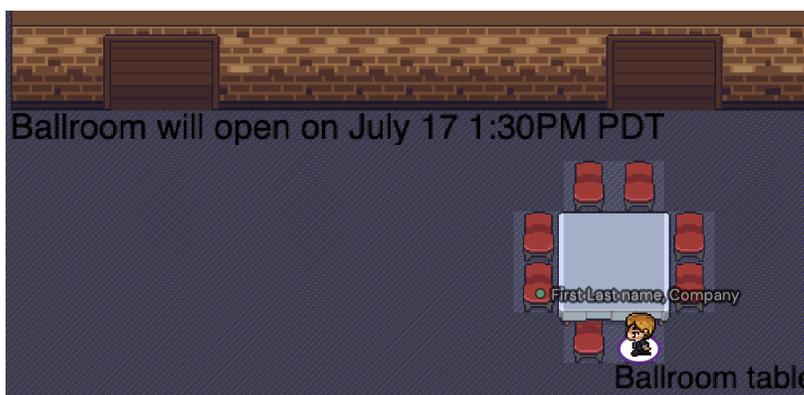


You are all set! Just close the browser page to end the meeting and exit the virtual space.

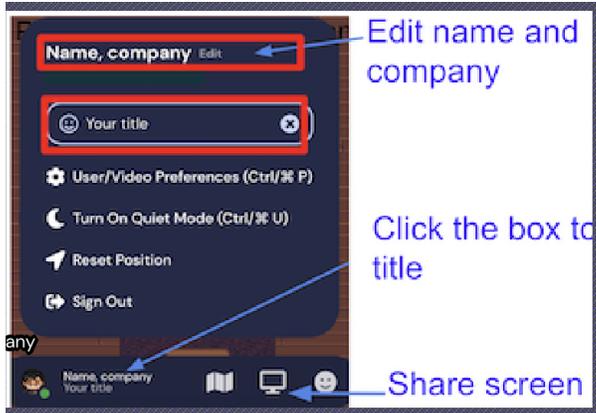
See you at AAEOY Pre-Award Gala on July 17 1:30-3PM PDT, 4:30-6PM EST!

Additional tips and things to try:

- Walk to the private table/chair, notice the grey out of the environment outside. Now you can chat privately with the other person sitting in the same private area with you.



- Click the box displaying your name to edit your name/company, and add any additional info in the next line if you wish



- Try the interactive elements



- Locate and follow others

