



IMAGIN: Improving Michigan's access to geographic information networks, Inc.

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Register Now!

IMAGIN 2020

ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 7-9 | KALAMAZOO RADISSON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER



**IMAGIN 2020:
BUILDING YOUR
GIS COMMUNITY**

Visit IMAGIN.org Conference Page to:

- See the most up-to-date information on keynote speakers and conference sessions
- Access information on the Kalamazoo Radisson to book your hotel stay with IMAGIN's group rate

Why Attend?

- Renew your excitement for GIS
- Build relationships with your peers
- Improve your GIS skills
- Learn about innovative solutions
- Enjoy renowned beer, food, and fun

IMAGIN: IMPROVING
MICHIGAN'S ACCESS TO
GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION NETWORKS

IMAGINews

Special Edition!



IMAGIN 2020: Building Your Community

On behalf of the IMAGIN Board, I would like to invite you to attend the 29th Annual IMAGIN Conference in Kalamazoo! Please join us Sunday, June 7th – Tuesday, June 9th as we gather once again to learn from our colleagues across Michigan as they share the amazing work they are doing to promote GIS in their organization, streamline services, and take GIS outside the walls of their offices.

As you can see in the chart, IMAGIN Conference attendance has been rebounding after the economic downturn early in this past decade limited spending on training and travel for many organizations. Many new GIS professionals and students have joined IMAGIN and/or attended the conference providing an opportunity to expand the types of sessions we can offer at the conference. This year, we are offering three different options for you to choose from when submitting an abstract:

- **Presentation** – 25 minutes of focused content about a single topic followed by 5 minutes of Q&A from session attendees. These are the traditional presentations that have been featured at recent IMAGIN Conferences.
- **Workshop** – 1.5-hour session that includes demos and audience interaction. These workshops about new geospatial technology can focus on hardware, software, apps, etc. that can be applied in any organization. These workshops are not intended to be a hands-on experience.
- **Coordinated Session** – 1.5-hour flexible time for a panel discussion, several topically related presentations, or a troubleshooting session offering discussion about challenges and lessons learned when implementing or using a solution. Multiple presenters could

participate in one of these casual sessions. In your abstract, please indicate if you intend to form a panel discussion, offer a series of presentations or host a troubleshooting session.

Additionally, we want to provide ample time for you to build your GIS community as suggested by the conference theme. With that in mind, we have brought back one of my personal favorites: Roundtable Discussions. Topics will be placed on tables where you can gather with others who are working through the same issues.

The IMAGIN Conference may be your first step toward building your GIS network and to ensure you are successful, we created a “Welcome to IMAGIN” session early on Monday morning where you can learn



more about our organization and the conference. Also, be sure to join us for dinner on Sunday evening at the Old Dog Tavern and attend the Networking Reception on Monday afternoon to keep adding to your GIS community!

I recently attended a conference where it was pointed out that a solution does not need to be elegant to be appreciated – it only needs to be functional to provide benefit to your organization. At that conference, I presented on a topic that I was sure few attendees would be interested in and I did not feel confident in the content I scraped together to fill 45 minutes. I was shocked that the room was full of people who were actually interested in what I had to say! All of you are doing excellent work in your organization. Please feel free to share the project you have implemented, your lessons learned, and your expertise with our IMAGIN Community by attending, or better yet, presenting at the 2020 IMAGIN Conference! I hope to see many of you in attendance this year.

Cheers,
Keri Blough
Conference Chairperson

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2020 Conference Specifics



Where: Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo

When: June 7-9

Registration is Open Now!

Discounted Room Block is available for booking.

New Sponsorship opportunities are detailed on the website!

Hello HOLLers!

Back by popular demand, the Esri Hands-on Learning Lab (HOLL) will be offered as part of the IMAGIN Conference once again. The HOLL gives you an opportunity to practice hands-on with standard Esri products such as ArcGIS Pro and Story Maps as well as a few software extensions. During each 45-minute lesson, you listen to a pre-recorded presentation and then work through an exercise using Esri software pre-loaded on each machine. If you get stuck? There's an Esri instructor in the room to help you along. This is a great way to learn new skills or brush up on a few tools that you haven't worked with in a while. A sample of courses that may be offered include:

- Getting started with ArcGIS Pro
- Editing GIS data
- Sharing GIS content using ArcGIS Online
- Monitoring activity using operations dashboard
- Performing image classification

IMAGINEWS

Call for Abstracts!

Share your GIS story at the IMAGIN Conference by submitting an abstract via our GeoForm available at IMAGIN.org. A few topics to start thinking about include:

- Assessing, Parcel Mapping & Surveying
- Asset Management
- Emerging Technologies
- GIS Administration
- Mobile Solutions
- Innovative Apps
- Open Source Software & Data Resources
- State & Local Government
- Tribal GIS
- UAV/Drone Technology
- Web Mapping
- Any Other Topic You Find Valuable

****Abstracts are due no later than 5 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2020.****

Win a free night at the Kalamazoo Radisson! A certificate will be awarded to a presenter randomly selected from the abstracts submitted by the 2/28/20 deadline.

Get Recognized!

IMAGIN Scholarship

The IMAGIN Scholarship is awarded in recognition of outstanding student performance in the Geographic Information / Geospatial Sciences fields of study. Scholarships up to \$500 each are awarded for both undergraduate and graduate level students based on academic achievements in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or Geospatial Sciences. Any student enrolled in a Michigan College or University, either graduate or undergraduate is eligible for the award.

Applications are due by *May 15, 2020*. <https://imagin.org/scholarship>

IMAGIN Map Gallery

Each year, as part of the Annual Conference, IMAGIN hosts the Map Gallery. The 2020 Map Gallery will feature six (6) categories, with the winner of each category receiving a \$50 prize. Additionally, an entirely new Map Gallery application process has been created, and we are requesting that you pre-register your entry. 2020 Map Gallery submittals for the Online Categories are due by *May 29, 2020*. Submittals for the "printed" categories are due via the online form by *May 29, 2020*, but the printed maps should be brought to the Kalamazoo Radisson on Sunday June 7 or Monday June 8, 2020 for display in the gallery.

IMAGIN Board of Directors Election

IMAGIN is led by a fifteen (15) member Board of Directors that oversee all aspects of the organization. Board members are elected for a two (2) year term, with alternating year of election where seven (7) members are elected one year and eight (8) the next year. For the 2020 Election, eight (8) directors seats are open for election. Self-nominations for the IMAGIN Board of Directors are due by *Friday, April 24, 2020*. https://imagin.org/board_election/

Networking!

Engage with your colleagues, friends and peers and explore the rich history that Downtown Kalamazoo has to offer.... Sunday, June 7th in the afternoon you can hop on the bus



for *The Brew/Non-brew tour* or join your fellow attendees in a guided tour through some of Michigan's history at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo. Sunday evening all

attendees will have an opportunity to meet for dinner and drinks Downtown at *The Old Dog Tavern* a Kalamazoo institution known for history and live music..



Award Categories!

Geospatial Achievement Award

The IMAGIN Geospatial Achievement Award is the highest award given by IMAGIN and is presented to a member in recognition of outstanding contributions to the geospatial technology field, their contribution to the IMAGIN organization and its geospatial professionals, colleagues, members and the public that it serves.

IMAGIN's GIS for Everyone Award

The IMAGIN GIS for Everyone Award is presented to an organization that seeks to make GIS data or analysis accessible to other organizations and/or to the public. GIS organizations that strive to disseminate and share data make spatial data available to everyone.

IMAGIN's GIS Innovation Award

IMAGIN's GIS Innovation Award is presented to an organization that finds innovative ways to use geospatial solutions to enhance workflow processes. Candidates for this award should have successfully implemented a geospatial technology, service, or application that is new and innovative to their organization. Applicants will be judged on collaborative efforts, contribution to the workflow, and original ideas.

Nominations for all 2020 awards are due by Friday, April 24, 2020.

Save the Date: IMAGIN's 30th Annual Conference

As excited as we are to see you this summer, we can't wait for next year! We will be celebrating IMAGIN's 30th Annual Conference on Mackinac Island at Mission Point Resort! Reserve June 6-8, 2021 to visit Mackinac Island just as the lilacs are about to bloom. Conference registration will be \$350 for IMAGIN members and that includes a ferry ticket from either St Ignace or Mackinaw City to the Island. Single rooms will be available for \$175/night plus taxes and fees.

Additional details will be forthcoming next year as the conference team pulls together the elements of the conference.



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SPECIAL EDITION 2020

IMAGIN is a non-profit professional development organization committed to providing opportunities for its members to network with professionals who are using, creating, or maintaining spatial resources within Michigan. IMAGIN serves as a crossroads for spatial information users/developers at all levels of government, business, and non-profit organizations by providing its members partnership opportunities to recognize, share, and create spatial data resources for both traditional and new applications.

IMAGINews publishes original, timely, and innovative articles and news items that advance knowledge regarding GIS, related technologies, and their use within Michigan. IMAGINews welcomes submissions from IMAGIN members and others. Please send article submissions in Microsoft Word format to communication@imagin.org.

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