

MAKE YOUR MARK! 2026

**MYM 2026 Committee  
Debrief Packet**

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**FACTS | FEEDBACK | 2027 PRIORITIES**

**Meeting**

Monday, October 19, 2026 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. | Zoom

**Purpose**

Review documented feedback from attendees, volunteers, exhibitors, and sponsors; identify priorities for improvement; and establish clear next steps for MYM 2027.

*Prepared for the MYM Planning Committee and Executive Committee*

# COMMITTEE PRE-READ

## Before the meeting

### Please review this packet before October 19

As you read, write down two or three things that are working well and should stay the same, two or three things that could be improved the most, and any questions you have that need more explanation from the survey data.

## How we will use the information

- Begin with successes shown in the feedback.
- Separate common themes from single comments.
- Focus on improvements we can make for 2027.

## October 19 meeting agenda

| TIME      | TOPIC                       | FOCUS                                                                                                                |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2:00-2:05 | Welcome and purpose         | Agree on the meeting goals and what we want to decide.                                                               |
| 2:05-2:10 | MYM by the numbers          | Review attendance and survey totals.                                                                                 |
| 2:10-2:15 | What worked well            | Choose what worked well and should continue in 2027.                                                                 |
| 2:15-2:45 | Opportunities to strengthen | Choose the most important improvements for access, event work, the venue, technology, traffic flow, and clear roles. |
| 2:45-2:55 | Program direction for 2027  | Discuss topics, session types, audience needs, level of detail, and materials people can take home.                  |
| 2:55-3:00 | Decisions and next steps    | Confirm the priorities, who will lead each one, due dates, and the next key step.                                    |

# FINAL ATTENDANCE RESULTS

## Closing the loop on monthly attendance reporting

Final attendance was based on the time each badge was printed in the Eventify check-in report. Each person was counted one time in the main attendance total, even if they had more than one role.

|                      |                                                     |                                        |                                                            |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>262</b>           | <b>201</b>                                          | <b>147</b>                             | <b>55</b>                                                  |
| <b>People onsite</b> | <b>People benefiting<br/>from content<br/>(77%)</b> | <b>Estimated general<br/>attendees</b> | <b>Estimated<br/>exhibitor/sponsor<br/>representatives</b> |

## Estimated attendance by main role

| MAIN ROLE<br>(ESTIMATED)                      | COUNT      | SHARE | HOW IT WAS COUNTED                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General attendee /<br/>guest</b>           | <b>147</b> | 56.1% | 123 were confirmed on the list. Another 24 were estimated from check-ins that did not match the list.                                       |
| <b>Exhibitor / sponsor<br/>representative</b> | <b>55</b>  | 21.0% | 32 were confirmed as exhibitor or sponsor representatives only. Another 23 were estimated to be last-minute or replacement representatives. |
| <b>Unpaid presenter /<br/>speaker</b>         | <b>33</b>  | 12.6% | If a person was a presenter and had another public role, the presenter role was used.                                                       |
| <b>Volunteer</b>                              | <b>19</b>  | 7.3%  | Volunteers who were not already counted as presenters or exhibitor/sponsor representatives.                                                 |
| <b>Council member</b>                         | <b>2</b>   | 0.8%  | Council members who were not already counted in another role.                                                                               |
| <b>Staff / event<br/>operations</b>           | <b>4</b>   | 1.5%  | Administrative staff, Capture staff, and event support staff.                                                                               |
| <b>Paid keynote speaker</b>                   | <b>2</b>   | 0.8%  | Jackie Nau and Cody Clark.                                                                                                                  |

# QUICK SUMMARY

## MYM 2026 at a glance

| 262                   | 42                 | 341           | 10                  | 13                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Final badge check-ins | Conference surveys | Session forms | Volunteer responses | Exhibitor/sponsor responses |

### Bottom line

MYM 2026 delivered a strong mission-centered experience. Feedback praised connection, advocacy, belonging, self-advocate leadership, practical learning, organization, and exhibitor inclusion. Improvement items are specific and actionable.

#### WHAT TO KEEP

- Connection, networking, fellowship, and belonging
- Self-advocate and lived-experience leadership
- Relevant speakers, real stories, and practical learning
- Interactive formats and hands-on activities
- Welcoming atmosphere and exhibitor inclusion

#### WHAT TO IMPROVE

- More question, discussion, practice, and processing time
- Accessible materials, handouts, interpreters, and presenter contact information
- Stronger AV and IT coverage
- Clearer steps for volunteers and surveys
- Signs and guidance
- Exhibit flow, food, and making rooms more comfortable

## Overall conference rating

### 37 clear ratings

36 were marked “Great” and 1 was marked “Okay.” Five additional forms did not include a clear overall rating.

# FEEDBACK ABOUT THE FULL CONFERENCE

## What attendees liked

### PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

- Engaging speakers and real stories
- Sessions led by people with disabilities
- Useful information for work and community
- Balance of general sessions and breakouts
- Choice of sessions without signing up early

### CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

- Networking and fellowship
- Meeting advocates from other communities
- Friendly, welcoming atmosphere
- Talent, drumming, music, magic, and karaoke
- Resource fair, booths, and vendors

## What attendees want improved

### ACCESS AND SCHEDULING

- Later-start consideration for people using caregiver support
- More time for questions, discussion, and thinking
- Printed handouts, presentation materials, and speaker contact information
- Captioning and interpreters
- Menus and materials shared before the event

### EXPERIENCE AND DELIVERY

- More activities people can do
- Clear signs outside and at the doors
- Strong audio-visual (AV) support and quick help when issues come up
- Review food choices and food temperature
- How easy exhibits are to see, traffic flow, and aisle width

## Sample attendee comments

*“I’m not alone with my problems.”*

*“Great speakers; friendly and welcoming.”*

*“We can share our story and make an impression.”*

*“Early start is difficult for people with caregivers.”*

# SESSION AND SPEAKER FEEDBACK

## What people said about the 2026 speakers and sessions

MYM breakout speakers and topics change each year. The Planning Committee chooses sessions from submitted proposals. The results below show what people learned, what they liked, and what they wanted explained more. Use this feedback when reviewing future proposals and helping speakers prepare. It does not mean the same session or speaker must return.

## Paid keynote speakers

Jackie Nau and Cody Clark were the two paid keynote speakers for MYM 2026. Their results are shown first because the conference paid for them. The feedback can help with future keynote choices, contracts, access needs, and program plans.

### **Opening Keynote: Be Your AuthenTIC Self** | 73 completed feedback forms | **PAID KEYNOTE**

**What people said they learned: Authenticity, Tourette Syndrome, hope, dignity, perseverance, and self-advocacy.**

**What people wanted next or wanted improved: More Tourette resources, self-advocacy strategies, disability information, and presentation materials.**

#### **Sample comments**

- “People are different, and that is okay.”
- “Be who you are. Do not allow someone else to decide your life for you.”
- “I am somebody’s hope.”

### **Cody Clark: Essential Skills** | 58 completed feedback forms | **PAID KEYNOTE**

**What people said they learned: Self-management, emotional management, communication, goal setting, problem solving, active listening, and self-advocacy.**

**What people wanted next or wanted improved: More role-play activities, social-skills examples, relationship-building skills, stress-management strategies, and additional practical examples.**

#### **Sample comments**

- “Set a goal and organize the steps.”

# Breakout sessions and panels

The number of forms was different for each session. These totals show completed surveys, not attendance. Review the totals with the comments and common themes.

## **Advocacy in Action: Legislative Success, LIVE! | 30 completed feedback forms**

**What people said they learned:** The legislative process, accessible pharmacy labeling, persistence, and community advocacy.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Legislative handouts, contacts, examples, and practical next steps.

### **Sample comments**

- *“You can stand up for yourself and your community and make a change.”*

## **Drumming for Life | 2 completed feedback forms**

**What people said they learned:** Music, energy, movement, and following others.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Using drumming with more songs.

**Conclusions are limited because only two forms were received.**

### **Sample comments**

- *“Music can move you in many ways.”*

## **Make Your Job Work for You! | 13 completed feedback forms**

**What people said they learned:** Accommodations, workplace supports, communication, self-advocacy, benefits, and support teams.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** More examples and strategies for talking with employers.

### **Sample comments**

- *“Workplace accommodations can help someone succeed.”*

### **Lights, Camera, WORK!!!** | 18 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** Job interests, confidence, networking, supported employment, and meaningful work.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Larger-print handouts and better audibility.

#### **Sample comments**

- *“Work can be meaningful and fun.”*
- *“Please bring this session back. Very fun and upbeat.”*

### **Supported Decision-Making** | 14 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** Choosing supporters, retaining control, alternatives to guardianship, and the Iowa pilot.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Resources, worksheets, Iowa next steps, and more question time.

#### **Sample comments**

- *“The person making the decision remains the decision-maker.”*

### **Social Security: Working While Disabled** | 0 completed feedback forms

No completed evaluations were confidently identified.

### **Lights, Camera, Impact** | 19 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** Storytelling frameworks and using stories for advocacy.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** More guided practice, examples, questions, sharing, and time.

#### **Sample comments**

- *“Share your story.”*

## **Able Jeopardy** | 9 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** Saving, benefits, qualified expenses, and financial independence.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Account management, limits, withdrawals, and Medicaid rules.

### **Sample comments**

- *“Money can be saved without losing certain public benefits.”*

## **Communication Without Barriers** | 16 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** Patience, listening, communication preferences, communication devices, and the right to a voice.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Patience, listening, communication preferences, communication devices, and the right to a voice.

### **Sample comments**

- *“Be patient and do not rush another person’s communication.”*

## **Iowa HHS Panel** | 18 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** HOME and HOPE, Medicaid changes, waiver updates, available programs, and disability services.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** More question time, implementation details, exceptions, contacts, and practical guidance on program changes.

### **Sample comments**

- *“It was nice to have administrative-level HHS staff available for discussion.”*

## **Advocacy in Action for Individuals with Special Needs** | 28 completed feedback forms

**What people said they learned:** Inclusion, belonging, challenging “no,” and self-advocacy.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** More adult community-belonging content, practical application, and examples focused on community opportunities after school.

### **Sample comments**

- *“Always challenge the “no.” Ask, “Why not?””*

## **Behind the Scenes: Crafting Your Advocacy Story | 14 completed feedback forms**

**What people said they learned:** Framing and organizing an advocacy message.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** More time, stories, examples, discussion, and participant practice.

### **Sample comments**

- *“A system for breaking a message into smaller parts and then putting it together into a well-worded advocacy message.”*

## **College Without Walls | 9 completed feedback forms**

**What people said they learned:** College options, independence, job skills, and eligibility.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Enrollment, costs, financial aid, transportation, eligibility, and available programs.

### **Sample comments**

- *“I did not think people like me could go to college.”*

## **Is Your Dog a Service Animal or a Pet? | 20 completed feedback forms**

**What people said they learned:** ADA rules, service-animal tasks, breeds, qualification requirements, and the difference between service animals and pets.

**What people wanted next or wanted improved:** Qualification, costs, Medicaid, legal questions, organizations, and demonstrations.

### **Sample comments**

- *“Dogs do not have to wear a vest or special identification.”*

## **What the speaker feedback says about the full program**

- Participants responded strongly to lived experience, real stories, self-advocate leadership, humor, and practical examples.
- Interactive formats worked well, particularly panels, demonstrations, discussion, audience participation, music, and opportunities to engage.
- The most common improvement requests involved more time for questions, practice, discussion, and processing.
- Participants wanted more take-home value through presentation materials, printable handouts, presenter contact information, concrete examples, resources, and clear next steps.
- Accessibility expectations should address captioning, interpreters, audibility, readable materials, and advance access to presentation resources.

# VOLUNTEER, EXHIBITOR, AND SPONSOR FEEDBACK

## Volunteer feedback

### 10 open-ended responses

Volunteers repeatedly described the conference as organized, welcoming, and smooth. Written assignments, expectations, talking points, and materials were identified as helpful.

#### KEEP DOING

- Written assignments and expectations
- Volunteer talking points and materials
- Friendly, welcoming approach
- Clear registration flow and venue signage

#### LOOK AT AGAIN

- Assignment conflicts and room-host needs
- IT coverage and quick help when issues happen
- Survey distribution, pens, and collection
- Talent-show setup, monitoring, and teardown
- Food holding and serving temperature

# All volunteer responses

## VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 1

### What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?

I enjoyed the sessions I attended. I learned a lot of new information, especially from the SSI speaker and the session on working while receiving benefits. I enjoyed the speakers and keynote speaker Jackie Nau a lot. I was already excited to see friends I hadn't seen in a year, but I was even more excited once I saw that Jackie Nau was a keynote speaker. My excitement went even higher.

### What could we improve for future conferences?

- Most of my food was barely warm or completely cold at every meal.
- The food was easy to chew, cut, and eat.
- Scheduling: I was assigned to be a session room host at the same time I had signed up to help at the Allies in Advocacy voting table. As a result, they were either short-staffed or did not have anyone at their table. I explained this to Carlyn. It was not a matter of me forgetting to show up; I had to be at the session 15 minutes before it began.

## VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 2

### What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?

The check-in and registration process was awesome. I loved the keynote speakers and the breakout sessions.

### What could we improve for future conferences?

As far as the talent show that I helped with, there was a lack of communication. The DJ was rushed during setup and was not given enough time to get everything ready. They were also rushed during teardown and received help from only one volunteer.

There was also some attitude and disrespect during the talent show. Several participants created challenges. One person almost knocked over the DJ's speakers, and another stepped off the front of the stage several times, stepping on the DJ's speakers. There were no committee members or volunteers helping monitor the situation or keep an eye on those issues.

### **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 3**

#### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

The volunteer instructions were organized and easy to follow. The IABLE Jeopardy session was very interactive, and the participants seemed to enjoy themselves. It was a very fun event!

#### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

I was impressed with the conference. The location was great. From my perspective, no changes are needed.

### **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 4**

#### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

I worked with the sessions on communication and guide animals. Both included panels of guests, and their real-life experiences made a huge impact on each topic. There was ample time for questions.

I really liked the electronic registration process and the flow directly into the vendor tables. The venue worked very well, with bathrooms and breakout rooms being easy to navigate.

As a volunteer, I had multiple individuals approach me with questions, and I observed the same with other volunteers.

#### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

Overall, I thought the conference went very well and things went smoothly.

### **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 5**

#### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

Everything was meticulously organized. Everyone was warm and welcoming.

#### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

I can't think of anything.

## **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 6**

### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

All of the volunteers and organizers were very friendly. The flow of the conference was nice, although I wonder if having all exhibitors in one room would be helpful. There may not be enough room for that.

The communication and clarity of my volunteer role were great, and the registration process flowed amazingly well. Everyone was so friendly.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

- This was my first time attending this event, and I will definitely return. Well done.
- The theme was great, and it was wonderful to see it carried throughout the entire conference, including the table decorations, prizes, and program.
- Really well done.

## **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 7**

### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

The conference was wonderful! I loved being able to help out, although things were running so well that at times I wasn't sure how I could help. That's a good problem to have! :)

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

I'm not sure the room host role is needed, but other than that, I have no comments.

## **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 8**

### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

It was helpful to have the volunteer assignments and expectations in writing ahead of time. The signs directing people where to go were helpful, and the event was well organized overall.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

- We needed more assistance with IT issues, which seemed to be a recurring challenge during sessions.
- There could be a better system for the session surveys participants were asked to complete. Pens should have been available on the tables.
- It was not clear what room hosts were supposed to do with the surveys after each session.
- It would be helpful for room hosts to be given the name of the person introducing the speaker so they know who they will be working with.

## **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 9**

### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

It was all really lovely. The staff did a great job of making sure every volunteer had clear assignments, talking points, materials, and everything they needed.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

N/A.

## **VOLUNTEER RESPONSE 10**

### **What went well during your volunteer experience at MYM 2026?**

The venue was fantastic after the remodel. The venue staff were very welcoming and available to assist attendees.

I served as a session moderator, and the Capture staff were helpful in getting the technology ready. Our room setup was exactly as requested.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

- Volunteers could benefit from having more specific, assigned tasks.
- One idea would be to assign a volunteer (or volunteers) specifically to support exhibitors. Their responsibilities could include:
  - Escorting exhibitors to their assigned tables.
  - Checking in with exhibitors in the morning (and possibly the afternoon) to see if they need anything.
  - Serving as a point of contact throughout the conference.

# Exhibitor and sponsor feedback

**13 open-ended responses**  
Respondents praised organization, venue setup, staff and volunteer support, exhibitor inclusion, and access to conference activities.

## KEEP DOING

- Detailed communication and responsive staff
- Convenient setup and helpful venue staff
- Inclusion in sessions and meals
- Networking and attendee visit time
- Option to set up early

## LOOK AT AGAIN

- Exterior entrance signage
- Garden Room traffic and visibility
- Aisle width for mobility devices
- Badge role descriptions
- BINGO directions and profile setup

# All exhibitor and sponsor responses

## EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 1

### What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?

I was very impressed. I appreciated the signs directing me to the parking lot, the exhibitor map, and the scavenger game. The conference volunteers and event center staff were attentive and helpful.

Everything was very well organized, and the facility was beautiful. It was a great experience, and as an exhibitor, I especially enjoyed networking with other exhibitors.

### What could we improve for future conferences?

This may have been just my experience, but after being directed to the parking lot, I was a little confused about where to enter and which building to use. (I am not very good with maps and directions.)

The entrance was somewhat obscured by vegetation, and a sign similar to those used to direct traffic would have helped me find the correct entrance more easily.

## EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 2

### What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?

I thought the conference went great. The location was amazing, and the setup was wonderful.

As an exhibitor, I loved being located in the middle of the session area and having the opportunity to listen to sessions when I wanted. Having the food nearby was also a plus, and it was nice to have drinks available throughout the conference.

Having all of the exhibitors located close together was great, and being able to walk around, meet everyone, and learn about the available resources was fantastic.

### What could we improve for future conferences?

No, I can't think of anything. The conference ran smoothly, and everything was amazing.

Thank you so much.

### **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 3**

#### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

I really appreciated being encouraged and allowed to attend the speaker sessions and other conference activities when the resource fair was not taking place.

#### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

Being located in the Garden Room made it feel as though we were not part of the main flow of attendee traffic.

In the future, it may be helpful to either find a way to better incorporate the Garden Room into the main conference flow or consider not using the Garden Room for exhibitors.

### **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 4**

#### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

Everything was excellent!

#### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

Continue to grow and evolve as the conference grows.

### **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 5**

#### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

The placement of our table was nice, and we had access to an electrical outlet.

#### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

N/A.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 6**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

It was great to see all of the individuals attending the conference having the opportunity to meet their peers.

The setup was excellent, and the event flowed very smoothly.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

The breakout sessions seemed to be very popular. It may be helpful to offer a few additional sessions geared toward individuals with intellectual disabilities.

I observed some attendees looking for additional topics that were specific to that audience.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 7**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

The placement of our booth was great, and the volunteers and staff were excellent.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

This is a small suggestion, but I think name badges should list each person's role, such as exhibitor, vendor, or MCO. This would make it easier to know each person's role and group.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 8**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

I thought the entire conference was great. The opening-day keynote speaker was phenomenal.

I would have loved to attend a breakout session featuring her and her husband.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

It seems like it would be difficult to improve on this conference. However, this was my first conference, and I truly could not find any fault with any aspect of the event.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 9**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

Our location was great.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

None.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 10**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

I was impressed by Heather and the conference team. They were responsive to our questions, welcomed feedback throughout the process, provided detailed information regarding our sponsorship and exhibit table, and made themselves readily available when needed.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

I thought the process went very well overall. If I had to choose one area to improve, I would choose the first step of setting up a profile.

Part of this may be because I am still learning the technology and the new process. I am not sure how to fix it because the form likely asks for needed information.

For me, the process took longer than expected. At times, I was not sure what information was needed. I was able to contact Heather for help, which was very helpful.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 11**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

- I felt that exhibitors were more included in this conference. They were encouraged to attend sessions and meals alongside participants.
- The location was very easy for everyone to navigate, and all of the hotel and conference center staff were helpful and friendly.
- I also felt that both the opening and closing keynote speakers were excellent choices and were a perfect fit for this year's conference.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

After talking with other exhibitors, it may help to hold two events: one in eastern Iowa and one in western Iowa.

I know it takes a lot of work to hold even one event. Still, more people may be able to attend if an event is closer to where they live. Many people with disabilities may not be able to travel 3 to 4

hours across the state for several days.

Other than that, I would like future conferences to use this same conference center and hotel. It met people's needs and was easy to use.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 12**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

Everyone was very helpful, and I appreciated being able to set up the night before the conference. It made the morning much less stressful and allowed me to focus on the event.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

At times, the exhibitor area was crowded. Many attendees used mobility devices, and some aisles were not wide enough for two people to pass each other.

This may have been caused by the amount of space at the conference center. If a similar layout is used again, wider aisles would help.

## **EXHIBITOR/SPONSOR RESPONSE 13**

### **What went well during your exhibitor or sponsor experience at MYM 2026?**

- Online registration was easy. There was plenty of break time for attendees to visit with exhibitors.
- Attendees always enjoy the prize drawings, and key sponsors were recognized throughout the conference.

### **What could we improve for future conferences?**

Attendees on Day 1 were a bit confused on where to find the BINGO card. That being said, Day 2 they thought it was a great idea to have a tear-off sheet in the program. Suggest an announcement and/or clearer instructions on the where to place completed cards and the drawing process.

*"Everything was meticulously organized. Everyone was warm and welcoming."*

*"I feel that the vendors were more included in this conference."*

*"We needed a lot more assistance with IT issues."*

*"More aisle space would be useful in a similar layout."*

## PRELIMINARY BUDGET UPDATE

# MYM 2026 preliminary budget

Current numbers show \$82,465 in funds available and \$80,719 in expenses so far. A few final expenses may still come in. A full report will be shared at a future Council meeting.

|                        |                         |                        |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>\$82,465</b>        | <b>\$80,719</b>         | <b>\$1,746</b>         |
| <b>Funds available</b> | <b>Current expenses</b> | <b>Current balance</b> |

## Sponsorship success

Sponsors and exhibitors provided \$36,465 in support. Their partnership helped cover about 45% of current conference expenses and allowed the Council investment to remain at \$46,000.

**Thank you to everyone who secured sponsors, exhibitors, and supporters for MYM 2026!**

## Where we invested

|                                        |                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Venue, food, drinks, and meeting space | <b>\$48,107</b> |
| Speakers & travel                      | <b>\$8,025</b>  |
| Printing & accessibility items         | <b>\$6,750</b>  |
| Attendee hotels                        | <b>\$4,650</b>  |
| Photography & video                    | <b>\$3,500</b>  |
| Attendee gifts, t-shirts, and awards   | <b>\$3,115</b>  |
| Other conference needs                 | <b>\$6,572</b>  |

*These amounts are rounded to make the summary easy to read. Current expenses total \$80,718.69. Final expenses are still being confirmed.*