

# Gather Instructions

Gather is a WebRTC platform that uses peer-to-peer connections. Your virtual space has been designed to replicate, as much as is possible in a virtual environment, face-to-face interactions.

## Requirements

You can join your Gather space from your computer (laptop, desktop) on any OS (Windows, Mac OS, Linux). **Mobile devices are not fully supported** (<https://support.gather.town/help/mobile-support>).

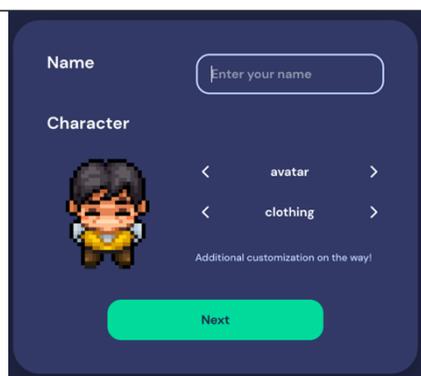
## Web browser

Because Gather is WebRTC-enabled, there is no client to install. We recommend using Chrome or Firefox browsers. Safari is not recommended.

## Desktop Version (Beta testing)

The desktop app is in beta testing now, <https://gather.town/download>, feel free to download and try it out

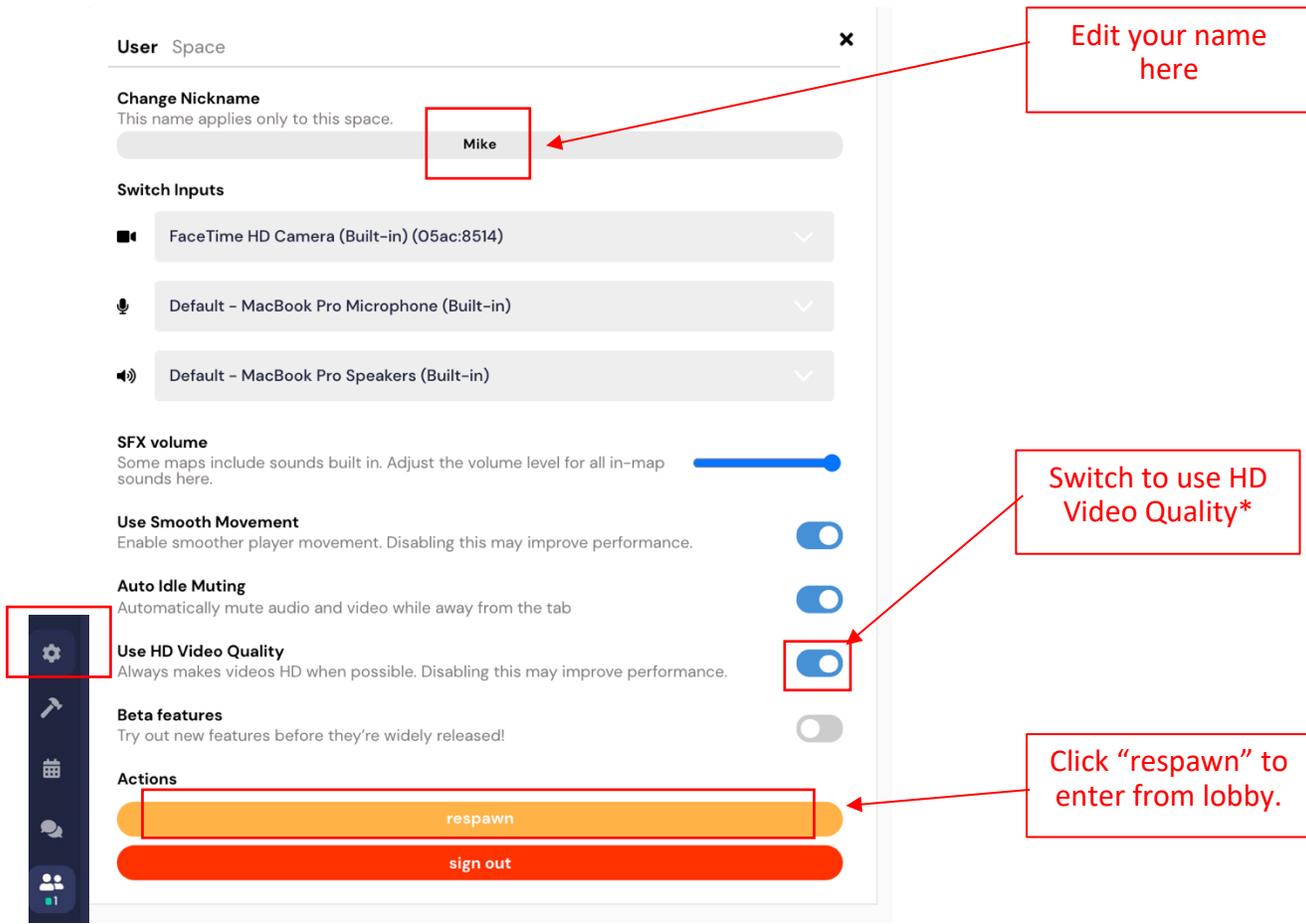
## Getting Started



### Naming your avatar

Before you enter the Gather space, you will be prompted to enter your name (See image on the left). While you can enter any name you want, we encourage you to use the name you registered with (or a recognized nickname).

You can change your settings at any time by going to the Settings (cog) on the left menu bar. See example below.



\*Please note that if you are experiencing bandwidth issues, please turn off HD video quality

Your avatar will spawn in one of several locations on the beach. From the beach you will have the option to venture out to various breakout rooms. Please follow the directional signage in the sand and water to the breakout room(s) you will be attending.

## Navigation

You will use the arrow keys, or WASD keys on your keyboard if you do not have arrow keys, to move throughout the Gather space.



Please Note: When using the WASD keys the W key is used as an up arrow, A as the left arrow, S as the down arrow, and the D as the right arrow key.

## Zooming in and out

When you first land in Gather you may not see enough of the Gather space to see where to go.

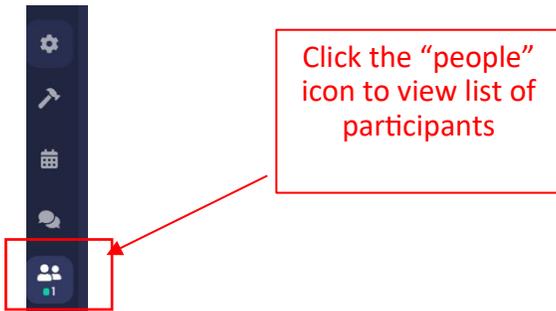


To see more of the space around you, on a Mac, hold the command key and press the – key to zoom out and the + key to zoom in. On a PC hold the CTRL key and press the – key to zoom out and the + key to zoom in.

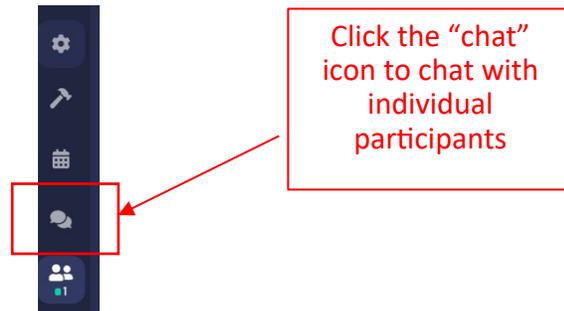


## The Basics:

### View Participants



### Chat with Participants

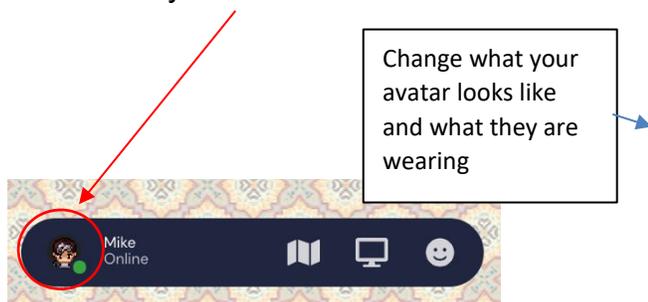


## Menu Bar

On the bottom of the screen you will see a horizontally oriented menu bar that allows you to customize your Gather experience.



### Customize your avatar



### Screenshare

Share your screen with people in your interaction distance. Please note that you cannot share your desktop or the browser that Gather is using. This will result in an infinite screen effect.

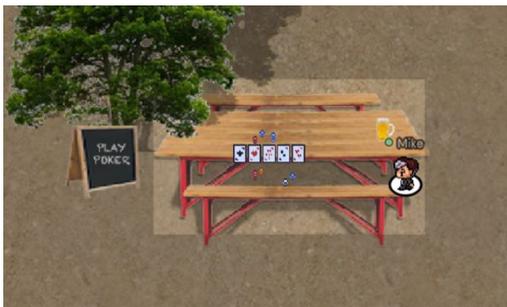


### Add a temporary Emote to your avatar

This is useful when speaking with large groups of people. When active, an emoji of your choice will temporarily appear above your avatar. The raised hand, however, will remain until you manually clear it.

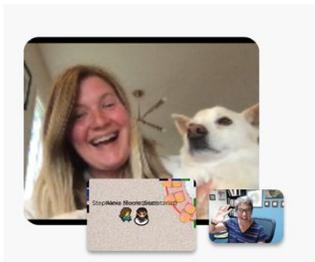
## Conversations

As you navigate around Gather you will see your colleagues as other avatars, moving about the venue. When you are far away the other avatars have a greyed out, ghostly appearance. As you get closer, the avatar becomes more vivid and their video and audio will appear. However, if you once again navigate your avatar away, you will quickly lose your colleague's video and audio. This takes some getting used to, however -- much as you would not leave your colleague standing at the cookie table and expect to continue your conversation while you got into an elevator -- you need to be standing near another avatar to engage with them.



### Private Conversations (sound pods)

Throughout the venue you will see tables (and other seating configurations). When you are in these areas, you are in a private sound pod, which means that you will only see and hear other avatars within the same sound pod. The 'Local Chat' feature can also be used to interact with avatars within the same sound pod.



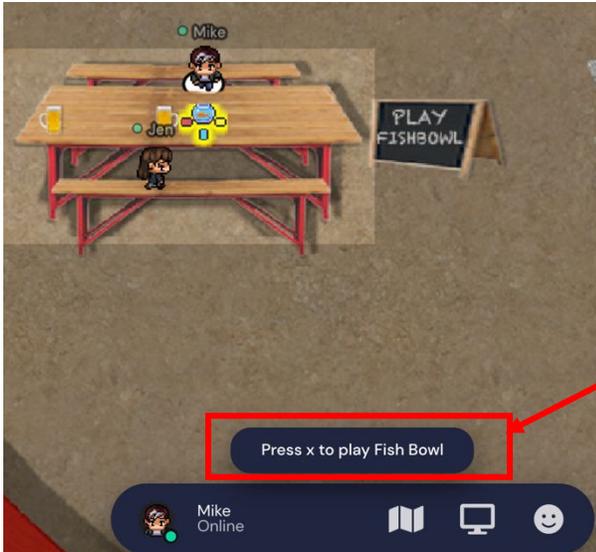
### Video Size

By default, the map occupies most of the screen space and your colleague's video will appear small. You can switch this (i.e., increase video and decrease map) by double clicking on your colleague's video. To switch back, simply double click on video again.

### Gallery View

If you are interacting with multiple people in Gather, you can control the size of the videos with the arrows below their photos.



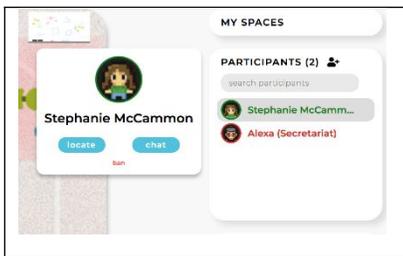
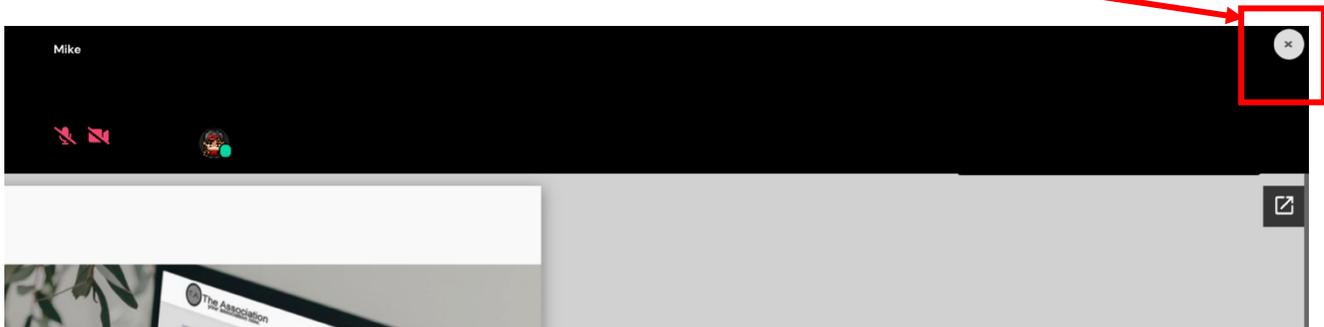


## Interactive elements

There are a number of interactive elements embedded in your Gather space. These elements are designed to provide helpful information or in the case of the example to the left, an interactive game you can play with others.

When you approach an interactive element, you will be prompted to press “x” in order to interact with it.

To return to the Gather environment, close the image or game by either pressing the x key on your keyboard or by clicking on the small x in the top right corner of the preview window.



## Chat (Individual Chat)

If you want to chat privately with another participant in Gather, you can select their name from the list of participants.

Miscellaneous Features:

### **Locating Colleagues and Friends**

If you see one of your colleagues or friends listed in the participant list and want to find them, you can highlight their name and you will see an option to locate them. Gather will draw a line that you can follow to your colleague. You can also select “Follow” next to a person’s name to automatically follow them to stay within speaking range of them.

### **Ghost Mode**

If you get stuck in a corner without the ability to move, press the ‘G’ key to activate Ghost Mode. This will enable you to walk through everyone around you!

### **Avatar Dancing**

If you are feeling really happy, you can make your avatar dance by holding down the “Z” key.