



WASHINGTON MAIN STREET NETWORK SLACK

We've heard a desire from our network—staff, boards, and volunteers alike—to connect more directly and frequently with other Main Streets to collaborate, ask questions, share ideas, and learn from each other. Inspired by our friends at the Nonprofit Association of Washington and with consultation from a variety of network members, we're excited to introduce the Washington Main Street Network Slack.

What is Slack?

Slack is an online communication tool that allows for synchronous and asynchronous conversations with other network members via topic-based "channels", direct messages, and private groups. You might think of it as existing somewhere in between chatrooms and email, with the opportunity to opt into hearing about specific topics, as well as easy, direct connection to Main Streeters across the state.

Accessible via webpage or via desktop and mobile apps, Slack is easy to use (we promise!) and has an incredible [Help Center](#) for any platform questions that arise.

Who can join?

Main Streeters across the state are invited! Staff, board members, and volunteers are all invited, with executive directors, board chairs, and committee chairs especially encouraged to join.

How do I start?

1. Go to [this link](#) and follow the instructions on your screen to set up your account.
2. [Update your profile](#) to include your full name, pronouns, title, organization, and (if you're able) a profile photo.
3. Send your very first message to a channel by introducing yourself in the #general channel. (Bonus points if you include your favorite thing about your Main Street!)
4. Join any channels that you'd like to stay engaged with.

Channels

Slack organizes conversations into dedicated spaces called channels, which lets people opt into the topics they'd like to be part of. When you join, you'll be automatically added to a few channels. You can [join others](#) by clicking "Channels" in the sidebar, then selecting "Manage">"Browse Channels."

We currently have 8 public channels:

- #general: General updates, reminders, introductions, resources, etc
- #successes-and-celebrations: Share your wins, big and small — we want to celebrate with you!
- #wms-announcements: Official news and announcements from your Washington Main Street team.
- #nonprofit-management: Management and operations of Main Street organizations

- Plus one channel for each of the four points: #design, #economic-vitality, #outreach, and #promotion

We also have private channels for Executive Directors and Board Chairs. Please message Lydia Felty if you are an ED or Board Chair and haven't been added to the appropriate group.

If you have an idea for a new channel, please message Lydia Felty.

Mentions

If you want to bring someone specific into a conversation, you can [mention](#) them by typing the "@" symbol and their username (e.g., @lydiafelty). This will send them a notification.

Direct Messages

Direct messages allow you to connect privately with another person or a small group. [To send a direct message](#), click the "new messages" button at the top of the sidebar (it looks like a pencil), and search for the person or people you want to chat with.

Notifications

Slack has a variety of notifications set up to ensure you don't miss anything. You can customize how and how often you receive notifications using [Slack's guide here](#).