2026 HOST GUIDE

Everything you need, from your first yes to your last thank-you.

HEARTLAND
MEN'S CHORUS KANSAS CITY

CAMPAIGN WINDOW

September 15 – November 5, 2026

BEFORE WE BEGIN

YOU ALREADY DID THE HARD PART.

You said yes. That's the decision that matters most — everything from here is logistics. This guide walks through what to do before, during, and after your Gather, plus the exact language to use when the moment comes to make the ask.

$41,000	SEPT. 15–NOV. 5	NO MINIMUM	ANY FORMAT
CAMPAIGN GOAL	YOUR HOSTING WINDOW	PER-HOST FUNDRAISING ASK	DINNER, BRUNCH, COCKTAILS, GAME NIGHT

THE SHAPE OF A GATHER

BEFORE

SHAPE, INVITE, PREPARE

Pick a date and format, invite personally, review your materials.

DURING

WELCOME AND ASK

Host like yourself, then make a short, sincere ask.

AFTER

HAND IT OFF

Send us the details — we take it from there.

BEFORE YOUR GATHER

Anytime after you sign up, through your event date.

1

SHAPE IT

Pick a date inside the campaign window, a format that feels realistic for you, and a guest list. Dinner at home, a table at your favorite restaurant, brunch, cocktails, game night — whatever you'd actually host.

2

INVITE

Reach out personally — a call, a text, a real invitation, not a mass email. Prioritize people who don't already know HMCKC. That's the whole point of Gather: you can open doors HMCKC can't open on its own.

3

PREPARE

Review this guide, your talking points, and your personal donation link or QR code. Nothing to memorize — just know where they are for the night of.

YOUR HOST EXPECTATIONS, IN FULL

- ☑ Confirm your interest and complete the host sign-up.
- ☑ Choose your date, location, format, and guest list.
- ☑ Invite people personally, with special attention to those who may not already know HMCKC.
- ☑ Use the HMCKC talking points to share who we are, why we sing, and why Gather matters.
- ☑ Give guests a clear opportunity to support HMCKC through your donation link or QR code.
- ☑ Share basic event and follow-up information with the Fund Development team.
- ☑ Help HMCKC thank your guests and welcome promising new connections into our community.

DURING YOUR GATHER

The night itself.

Welcome your guests. Let the evening feel like yours. At a natural pause — not a scheduled moment, just whenever conversation allows — say a little about why you invited everyone, then point them to your donation link or QR code.

THIS ISN'T A SPEECH

No presentation, no slides, no script to recite word for word.

SHORT IS RIGHT

A few sincere sentences land better than a polished pitch.

MAKE IT YOURS

Swap in your own reason for caring — that's what makes it work.

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO SAY

"I invited you because HMCKC has always been about more than what happens onstage. We use music to build community, celebrate pride, and create spaces where people can feel seen, welcomed, and connected. Gather is simply a way to bring more people into that circle. If that story speaks to you, I'd love for you to be part of it."

Use it as written, or as a starting point — the version that sounds like you will always land better than the version that sounds rehearsed.

AFTER YOUR GATHER

Within a few days of your event.

- ☑ **REPORT BACK** Send attendance and follow-up notes to the Fund Development team.
- ☑ **FLAG CONNECTIONS** Tell us about guests who might welcome another point of contact with HMCKC.
- ☑ **HAND IT OFF** Gift collection, donor follow-up, reporting, and stewardship are ours from here.
- ☑ **STAY IN THE LOOP** We'll continue the relationship you helped begin.
- ☑ **BE THANKED** Expect a personal thank-you as campaign results and stories come together.

NEED SOMETHING? HERE'S WHO TO ASK

TALKING POINTS OR DIGITAL ASSETS	Fund Development Commitee
YOUR DONATION LINK OR QR CODE	Sent by Tom Dillon after you confirm you're hosting a Gather
A QUESTION MID-PLANNING	Gather Co-chair **Zach Stroth** at **zachstroth@gmail.com**
REPORTING YOUR EVENT	Anytime in the week after your Gather

YOUR READINESS CHECKLIST

EVERYTHING, IN ONE PLACE

- ☑ I can host between September 15 and November 5, 2026.
- ☑ I have a gathering format that feels comfortable and realistic for me.
- ☑ I can personally invite people from my network, including people beyond the existing HMCKC community.
- ☑ I'm comfortable sharing a brief HMCKC story using the provided talking points.
- ☑ I can make my donation link or QR code available to guests.
- ☑ I understand there's no required format, guest count, or individual fundraising minimum.
- ☑ I know the Fund Development team is a message away if I need anything.

REMEMBER

Success here was never a perfect venue or a certain number on a page. It's one more person who now knows what HMCKC sounds like – and what it means.

Ready to lock in a date? Confirm here.