



GRIND CITY OS

The User Manual

Everything on www.grindcity.org, explained — the desktop, the widgets, the GCM26 archive, Mane Street, Photo School, your account, and the Admin panel. Every section heading carries a QR code that jumps a phone straight to it.

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1 • Welcome



scan · #welcome

Grind City OS is the home of **Grind City Meet** — Memphis's photographer community, celebrating ten years of exploring the city. Instead of a normal website, the whole thing is a *macOS-style desktop* that runs in your browser: a menu bar, windows you can drag around, a dock, widgets, a chat room, and apps.

The first time you visit www.grindcity.org you'll see a short boot screen (the crowned-G logo with a progress bar), then the desktop fades in over the "Bluff City Dusk" wallpaper — a Mississippi River sunset under the M-shaped Hernando de Soto bridge. Everything you can see can be clicked, opened, dragged, or rearranged.

2 • The desktop in 60 seconds



scan • #basics

Open an app — click its icon in the dock (bottom), or double-click a desktop icon (top-right). On a phone, a single tap opens things.

Move a window — drag its title bar. **Resize** — drag any edge or corner.

Close / minimize / zoom — the red, yellow, and green traffic lights in the window's top-left corner.

Search everything — press  Space (or click the magnifier in the menu bar) for Spotlight.

Sign in — the red **Sign In** pill at the right of the menu bar.

Change the look — Control Center (the sliders icon) for Dark Mode and brightness, or Settings for wallpapers.

3 • The menu bar



scan • #menubar

The strip across the top works like the real thing, left to right:

⌵ **Aperture menu** (far left) — About Grind City OS, Settings, Sign In / Sign Out, and the power controls: Sleep (click or press any key to wake), Restart, and Shut Down (with a power button to boot back up).

App name — bold, shows whichever window is focused ("Finder" when none).

File / View / Window / Help — real menus: close windows, switch Light/Dark, change wallpaper, minimize/zoom, bring all windows to front, open the Read Me or this manual.

Sign In pill / account chip — signed out you get the red **Sign In** button; signed in it becomes a circle with your initial. Click it for your name and role, **Open Admin** (staff), **Manage sign-in**, and **Sign Out**.

Wi-Fi & battery — decorative, like a good desk plant.

Control Center — Wi-Fi and Dark Mode toggles plus a brightness slider that really dims the screen.

Spotlight — the magnifier; same as  Space.

Clock — always Memphis time (America/Chicago).

4 • Windows



scan • #windows

Drag a window by its title bar; it can't be pushed above the menu bar.

Resize from all four edges and corners (look for the cursor change).

● **Close** removes the window. ● **Minimize** shrinks it into its dock icon — click that dock icon to bring it back. ● **Zoom** (or double-clicking the title bar) toggles near-fullscreen.

The focused window is brighter; clicking anywhere on a window brings it to the front.

Some windows have an ↗ at the right of the title bar (like GCM26) — that opens the same content in a normal browser tab.

5 • The Dock



scan · #dock

The dock floats at the bottom: **Finder** (Past Events), **Mane Street** (the trolley), **GCM26** (the aperture), **Settings**, then **Admin** (staff only) and the **Trash**. Hover to see the magnification effect and name tooltips; a small dot under an icon means that app is open; launching an app makes its icon bounce. On phones the dock scrolls sideways.

6 • Desktop icons



scan · #icons

Down the right edge of the desktop:

Past Events — a folder that opens a Finder window of the archive (GCM26 and the Instagram walk archive).

GCM26 — the 2026 anniversary walk, opens in a window. Right-click it for "Open in New Tab".

Gallery and **Photo Drop** — the community photo wall and the submission box (see section 12).

Memes — a folder pre-loaded with the internet's top 100 meme templates, streamed live from imgflip. Click one to view it big; right-click to save a copy.

Read Me — a quick orientation document. **User Manual** — this guide.

Instagram and **Linktree** — the ↗ badge means they open in a new browser tab.

Single-click selects (blue label), double-click opens; on touch screens one tap opens directly. Right-click the empty desktop to change the wallpaper.

7 • Memphis widgets



scan · #widgets

The stack pinned top-left is live, keyless, and tuned to downtown Memphis (the Exchange Building, where the walks start):

Weather — current temperature in °F with an animated condition icon, plus a three-day forecast. Data refreshes every 30 minutes from Open-Meteo and the last reading is cached on your device so it paints instantly.

Air Quality — the US-AQI arc meter with a needle across the six EPA bands (Good → Hazardous) and the current PM2.5 reading.

Gauges — two rings: humidity right now, and the chance of precipitation today.

On short screens the lower cards bow out first; on phones you keep weather, calendar, and reminders.

8 • Calendar & Reminders



scan • #calendar-reminders

The **calendar** shows the current month with today ringed in red. Days with a gold dot are **Grind City Meet events** — **click them**: they open the event's registration page. The footer always shows the next upcoming class.

The **Reminders** card ("Photo School") lists all four sessions of the photography series: past classes are checked off and struck through, upcoming ones sit with open circles. Every row links to the library's registration page.

9 • GCM26 — the archived walk



scan • #gcm26

GCM26 was the 10-year anniversary photo walk — Sunday, May 3, 2026, a ~0.8-mile loop through downtown: the Exchange Building → Stereo Alley → the Sterick lobby → First Horizon → sunset on the Rendezvous garage roof → back to the Exchange for the after-party. The entire live event site is preserved exactly as it ran at www.grindcity.org/gcm26: the interactive route map, all five stops with photo tips, the timeline, and the after-party details.

Open it from the **GCM26** desktop icon, the dock, or the Past Events folder — it runs inside a window (drag it around while you browse the map), or hit the title-bar ↗ for a full tab. Tap any stop card for its photo tip and map links.

10 • Mane Street — the chat room



scan • #mane-street

The trolley in the dock opens **#mane-street** — but first, the room *dials in*: a full 56k modem handshake plays over a Grind City Online sign-on screen (dial tone, the digits, the screech, the static — all of it, about 28 glorious seconds). Impatient? The **Skip the handshake** ►► button connects instantly.

Once you're in: pick a handle (2–18 letters/numbers) and pull up. The room is **live and ephemeral**: messages are broadcast to whoever is in the room at that moment and *never stored* — when everyone leaves, the room forgets. You'll see "pulled up" and "rolled out" lines as folks come and go, and the header counts who's here. There's a gentle rate limit (one thought at a time). Be cool.

11 • Photo School



scan • #photo-school

Grind City Meet — 4-Week Photography Series at the Cossitt Library: the essentials and fundamentals of photography, from camera basics to editing. Second Thursdays, 6–7:30 PM, free (registration recommended):

June 11, 2026 — Intro to Film Workshop ✓

July 9, 2026 — Editing Basics ✓

August 13, 2026 — topic TBA

September 10, 2026 — topic TBA

Register on [the library calendar](#), or just click the gold-dotted date on the desktop calendar widget.

12 · The Gallery & Photo Drop



scan · #gallery

The **Gallery**(in the dock and on the desktop) is the community photo wall — everyone's approved shots in one grid, each with the photographer's credit. Click any photo for the full view with its caption and credit; Instagram handles link out.

To get *your* work on the wall, open **Photo Drop**(desktop icon, or the "+ Submit yours" button inside the Gallery):

Drop your pictures onto the dashed zone — or click it to choose files. Up to 5 at a time, JPG/PNG/WebP/GIF; big files are slimmed automatically before upload.

Caption each shot (optional) and enter **your name** (required — it becomes the printed credit) plus your **@instagram** if you want it linked.

Submit. Your pictures land in the review queue; a moderator approves what goes public. Staff uploads publish instantly.

Moderators curate everything from **Admin** → **Gallery**: approve or reject the queue, edit captions and credits inline, unpublish, or delete — so the wall stays sharp.

13 · Your account & signing in



scan · #account

Click the red **Sign In** pill in the menu bar (or go straight to </login-link-passkey>).

Enter your email and hit **Email me a link**.

Check your inbox for the black-and-gold email from **mane@grindcity.org** (peek in spam the first time) and tap **Sign in to Grind City OS**. Links work once and expire in 15 minutes.

You land back on the site signed in — the menu bar now shows your initial in a red circle.

The same page is your **account panel** when signed in: your name, email, role, passkey management, and Sign Out. No passwords exist anywhere in this system — just email links and passkeys.

14 · Passkeys (skip the email next time)



scan · #passkeys

A **passkey** lets your device's Face ID / Touch ID / PIN sign you in with one tap — no email round-trip. After your first sign-in, on the [account page](#) click + **Add a passkey on this device** and approve the browser prompt. From then on, "Sign in with a passkey" on the sign-in screen is instant. You can register one per device (phone, laptop) and remove any of them from the same page with the X.

15 · The Admin panel (staff)



scan · #admin

Staff (moderators and up) get an extra gold-shield **Admin** icon in the dock and in the account-chip menu. It opens a window with these tabs:

Users — every member with their avatar, name (click to edit inline), email, passkey count, and last-in date.

Open a profile — click anyone's avatar or email for a full profile drawer: last login, login count, last seen, last IP, join date, passkeys, and their recent activity.

Invite by email — type an email, pick a starting role, hit Invite; they get a branded invite good for 7 days.

Shareable invite link — pick a role and hit **Create link**; it copies a ``/join/...`` URL you can text to anyone. They open it, enter their email, and get a one-tap sign-in link (then add a passkey). One link can onboard many people; links show usage and can be revoked.

Change a role / Suspend (1/7/30d) / Delete — per-row controls; guard rails apply (see the next section).

Roles & Permissions — the live permission matrix: 11 granular permissions × 4 roles as checkboxes, each with a plain-English label. Super Admins toggle any cell; changes apply within a minute.

Gallery — the photo-curation queue: approve/reject submissions, edit captions and credits inline, unpublish or delete published shots (see section 12).

Audit Log (Super Admins only) — every action and login event across the whole site, newest first: who did what, to whom, when, and from which IP. Filter by action type. Login/logout, invites, role changes, suspensions, deletions, permission edits, passkey changes, and gallery moderation are all recorded.

How To — this manual, embedded, with the PDF download.

16 · Roles & permissions



scan · #roles

Four roles, from least to most access:

Member — a regular account. Chat, browse, manage their own passkeys.

Moderator — can open Admin, see the user list, and moderate chat.

Admin — everything above plus invite users, edit names, change member/moderator roles, and suspend.

Super Admin — everything, always (the matrix row is locked on). Only Super Admins can grant or revoke Admin, delete users, or edit the permission matrix.

The eight permissions: `admin.access`, `users.view`, `users.invite`, `users.edit`, `users.roles`, `users.delete`, `perms.edit`, `chat.moderate`. Built-in safety: nobody can change their own role, suspend themselves, or delete themselves; only a Super Admin can touch another admin; and the founding Super Admin can never be demoted or deleted.

17 · Tips, shortcuts & mobile



scan · #tips

`⌘ Space` — Spotlight. Type a few letters, arrow keys + Enter to launch.

`Esc` — closes menus, Spotlight, and Control Center.

Double-click a title bar to zoom a window.

Right-click the desktop → change wallpaper; right-click GCM26 → open in a new tab.

Aperture menu → **Sleep** for the world's most dramatic screensaver; any key wakes it.

On phones: one tap opens icons, windows open near-fullscreen, the dock scrolls sideways, and the widget stack keeps weather + calendar + reminders.

Your theme, wallpaper, brightness, and chat handle are remembered per device.

18 · Quick links & QR codes



scan · #links

Scan any card to open it on your phone — or just click.



The Desktop

www.grindcity.org



GCM26 Archive

</gcm26>



Sign In / Account

</login-link-passkey>



This Manual

</manual>



Manual PDF

</manual.pdf>



Instagram

[@grindcitymeet](#)



Linktree

linktr.ee/grindcitymeet



Photo School

Cossitt Library registra
tion

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