

## LSA M-Powerment Features: Aidan Sova

by [Brandon Bond](#)

Aidan Sova (he/him/his) is a 2021 graduating senior majoring in Communication and Media, and an Undergraduate Academic Fellow in the Department of Communication and Media. Upon transferring to Michigan his sophomore year, Aidan immediately began his involvement in various activities that would lead him to join the Coronavirus Community Action Task Force, being appointed as a Human Rights Commissioner on the Washtenaw County Board, and honored as a 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award Winner.

Although one might expect Aidan's journey to these achievements to be through an expansive professional network or courses, much of his current involvement started with a student organization and Twitter. While serving as the Executive Director of the Association of Big Ten Students, an organization that advocates for the 500,000 students of the Big Ten conference, Aidan sought out information and leadership advice for navigating the impact of COVID-19 on the student body from Garlin Gilchrist, UM alum and Lieutenant Governor of Michigan. Hoping to maximize the strength of the Michigan connection, Aidan DM'd the Lieutenant Governor on Twitter to set up a meeting.

***"I think we've been sort of trained to be fearful of rejection in the sense of if I asked for an opportunity, or if I asked to talk to this very established person, they're very busy or they'll say no I think that there's absolutely no harm in trying, and I think it also speaks to the point of leveraging the University of Michigan's network."***

During their discussion, Aidan asked insightful questions and provided his unique perspective on the COVID-19 issue. The Lieutenant Governor and his team were so impressed by Aidan, they asked him to join the Coronavirus Community Action Task Force to continue his advocacy work. By demonstrating his work ethic and commitment to upholding the wellbeing of the public, Aidan was appointed as a Human Rights Commissioner on the Washtenaw County Board.

***"I think that there is so much power in recognizing what your perspective is and how that can be helpful for others."***

Aidan's advocacy work started well before his participation in these positions. From a young age, he engaged in various service opportunities that played a huge role in his development. Additionally, he credits his unique perspective and passion to his experience living in a low-income single-parent household. Despite the new privileges that come with Aidan's many positions, he still states that ***"it is now my responsibility, as somebody who was previously low-income, to advocate for those who still are harmed and neglected because of their economic status."***

His lived experience and participation in service opportunities motivated him to engage in student government throughout his education. He previously served as the Policy Advisor for the Central Student Government.

***“I’ve also been a huge advocate of paying our student advocates because if we don’t, we’re just gate-keeping this entire student activism and volunteer space to where only the wealthy or extremely fortunate people are making new rules and policies of which low-income, disenfranchised, and marginalized people probably aren’t being considered. When you have policymakers of the same sort of stature and standing making the rules, it’s very likely it’s only going to benefit that sort of group.”***

Through Aidan’s journey, he discovers new aspects of himself and methods to set the stones of his own unique path. With the wisdom he has developed he encourages fellow students to embrace their fear and make the most of the resources and opportunities presented to them.

- 1. Recognize what opportunities are already present and available to you.***
- 2. Ask for opportunities that you want to be in or see.***
- 3. Cultivate relationships with people that want to see you succeed.***
- 4. Recognize your unique perspective and how you can bring it to the table***

Upon graduation, Aidan’s advocacy work will continue as he continues to serve as the Washtenaw County Human Rights Commissioner. He will also be utilizing his Communication and Media degree as he enters a full-time position as a gTech Ads Support Strategist for Google.