



## LET'S TALK PHILLY

When individuals come together to listen to and learn from each other, we have the power to impact both communities and lives. That's what *On the Table Philly* is all about.

Thank you for hosting a mealtime conversation as part of *On the Table Philly*. On Tuesday, May 23, 2017, you'll be part of an exciting, region-wide initiative to explore the ways in which we have the power to collaborate in order to make our communities stronger and more dynamic.

We know that Philadelphia-area residents share a desire to come together, collaborate more, become more connected and more involved in our community. While we know that there's no "quick fix" to the issues facing our region, progress will result from residents and organizations bringing into focus the needs and wants of our communities and identifying the opportunities and solutions that can move us forward. *On the Table Philly* is both a catalyst and a channel for conversations to take place. What happens next is up to each of us.

## LET'S GET STARTED

### *Planning Your Event*

### *The Day*

Tuesday, May 23, 2017. All *On the Table Philly* events will take place throughout the day during mealtime conversations — breakfast, coffee break, lunch, dinner, snacks — any type of food at any time of day.

### *The Guests*

The invite list is up to you. If you're unsure, start with people you know — friends, family, colleagues and neighbors of all ages and backgrounds. You may also want to expand your circle. Consider reaching out to a larger community by co-hosting your event with a local nonprofit or religious group. Ask your guests to bring a friend, or invite people from your network that don't already know each other well.

### *The Numbers*

Eight-to-twelve guests per table is ideal. *On the Table Philly* is about giving everyone a chance to speak and be heard. If you want to host a larger gathering, consider breaking into smaller groups and allowing time for each to discuss and report out to the larger group.

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### *Registration*

Visit [www.onthetablephl.org](http://www.onthetablephl.org) to register your event. This will provide you with access to resources and updates.

### *Spread the Word*

What will you do to create a stronger, more engaged and connected community? How will you use your *On the Table Philly* conversation to bring your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors together to lead change in your organization, neighborhood or throughout the region? The Philadelphia Foundation (TPF) encourages you and your guests to share commitments and connections with us leading into, during and following your conversations using the hashtag #LetsTalkPhilly. We want the action emerging from your conversations to inspire collaboration and action from others.

## **THE TABLE IS SET. NOW WHAT?**

### *Conversation Guidelines*

First, our fundamental discussion question — **What can we do together to create a stronger and more engaged community?** — is intentionally left VERY open-ended in order to encourage *On the Table Philly* participants to think creatively and reflect on possibilities, in addition to talking about challenges.

Second, consider the conversation as a journey. Every guest's ideas and stories are important, and *On the Table Philly* conversations should provide an opportunity for all participants to reflect on what we value most, consider choices and tradeoffs, and invite all ideas.

Third, focus on generating solutions. The Philadelphia Foundation wants to showcase suggestions and initiatives emerging from *On the Table Philly* conversations in order to inform and inspire collaborative action, and drive progress across the region.

### *Dos and Don'ts*

#### DO

- Encourage everyone to participate and engage each other respectfully.
- Invite guests to follow-up and expand on ideas.
- Collect any unanswered data or fact questions that come up and share them with *On the Table* staff.
- Share your photos, videos and stories on May 23 using the hashtag #LetsTalkPhilly on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

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#### DON'T

- Micromanage the conversation; let it flow freely.
- Be judgmental or dismissive of any person's comments or ideas.
- Promote argument or incivility among participants.
- Be afraid to ask if you have questions on or before May 23 — we have a team ready to help.

#### *Sample Conversation Prompts*

To help get your conversations started, we've compiled a list of sample conversation prompts. Here are a few examples to consider:

1. What positive characteristics or qualities does our community embody? How could we use these to better our collective future?
2. What are the top needs of our community? How can we individually or collectively address those needs?
3. How can we work together to improve the chances of more people doing well in our region? How do you define what "doing well" means?
4. Let's choose an issue affecting our community and talk more specifically about how we'd address it — first with unlimited resources and then, as a challenge, if we only had \$100 and one day to create change, or we had to give up something else to get it done.
5. What data or information about my community would I like to have that I'm not getting?
6. Now let's take the next step. Residents from all walks of life across the region will be gathering today at mealtime conversations just like ours. How can we use these conversations to bring colleagues, friends and neighbors together to lead change across the area and create a more informed, dynamic, interconnected region? What should we do next?

#### ENGAGING OUR FUTURE

Young people are critical to our region's future. *On the Table Philly* strives to engage those voices and support creative and energetic ideas from our community's youth — at home, around the family dinner table or through school, church or community groups. We encourage you to think about ways you can engage the young people in your life in *On the Table Philly*. That could mean including some of them as guests at the event you are hosting, sharing your *On the Table* experience with them, or asking them to share their thoughts and ideas with you.

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## WRAPPING UP

### *After Your Event*

In today's world, this act of coming together has never been more important. *On the Table Philly* will connect individuals and communities of diverse perspectives and backgrounds. Talking — and listening — to our neighbors is an important first step toward creating a more engaged, interconnected, and dynamic community.

Before your guests depart, encourage them to help us record thoughts, stories, actions and ideas coming out of every conversation by having those 18 and older complete a short survey that is being conducted by The Knight Foundation and TPF. They can access the survey online or you can provide them with a hard copy at the event.

This data will be shared with the community publicly and with key leaders throughout the area, in an effort to help them better understand and address the needs of our community, so we want to hear from every voice.

Starting on May 23, TPF also encourages participants to share the commitments and connections coming out of *On the Table Philly* conversations. We want to showcase outcomes emerging from your tables to inspire collaboration and action from others, and drive progress across the region. *On the Table Philly* was created as a catalyst and a channel for these important conversations to take place. What happens next is up to each of us — share your success stories, challenges and ideas.

You can do this:

- At [www.onthetablephl.org](http://www.onthetablephl.org) or through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) using #LetsTalkPhilly.
- By leaving a message with us at 215-563-6417.
- By sending us a note at: The Philadelphia Foundation, *On the Table Philly*, 1234 Market St., Suite 1800, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Thank you for coming to the table. We're excited to have you as part of this important conversation.

Be sure to follow us on:

TWITTER: @OnTheTablePHL

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/OnTheTablePhilly](http://www.facebook.com/OnTheTablePhilly)

INSTAGRAM: @OnTheTablePHL

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For more information:

Visit [www.onthetablephl.org](http://www.onthetablephl.org) or email us at [onthetable@philafound.org](mailto:onthetable@philafound.org)

### **About The Philadelphia Foundation**

Founded in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation (TPF) strengthens the economic, social and civic vitality of Greater Philadelphia. TPF grows effective philanthropic investment, connects individuals and institutions across sectors and geography, and advances civic initiatives through partnerships and collaboration. A publicly supported foundation, TPF manages more than 900 charitable funds established by its donors and makes over 1,000 grants and scholarship awards each year. To learn more, visit [philafound.org](http://philafound.org).

### **About The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

The Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. It invests in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. The Foundation's goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which it believes are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit [knightfoundation.org](http://knightfoundation.org).

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