



THE
PHILADELPHIA
FOUNDATION
The Power of Endless Possibilities.



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**THE PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION AND KNIGHT FOUNDATION KICKED OFF A
NEW INITIATIVE IN THE PHILADELPHIA REGION:
“ON THE TABLE PHILLY”**

Philadelphia, PA (March 16, 2017) [The Philadelphia Foundation](#) and [the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#) today launched “***On the Table Philly***” -- a new pilot initiative that will be held throughout the Greater Philadelphia region on May 23 to engage residents in an open dialogue and inspire new solutions to strengthen communities. The new initiative was announced at the Columbia North YMCA and is part of a larger national initiative [recently launched by Knight](#) in 10 cities to bring residents together in small mealtime conversations to talk about ways to make their neighborhoods stronger, safer and more dynamic.

“Philly, let’s talk!” said Pedro A. Ramos, President & CEO of The Philadelphia Foundation. “*On the Table Philly* is for everyone, because each of us has the power to make our communities great. We invite you and your families, neighbors, colleagues and friends – old and new – to pull up a chair, share a meal and discuss the ways in which we – as individuals and as a collective – can work to make our communities stronger and more dynamic. *On the Table* is a celebration of civility and citizenship.”

“The Philadelphia Foundation is proud to spearhead *On the Table Philly* in conjunction with the Knight Foundation because it is very much in keeping with our role as a community foundation,” Ramos added. We foster the region’s economic, civic and social vitality by connecting individuals and institutions across sectors and geography, growing effective philanthropy, and advancing civic initiatives like this one through partnerships and collaboration.”

On the Table Philly gatherings can take place at any time of day on May 23 – over breakfast, coffee, lunch, dinner, dessert or an afternoon or evening snack, as the host determines. Tables of 8 to 12 individuals will be convened at community organizations, offices, libraries, recreation centers, places of worship, local restaurants and in individual homes. It is anticipated that more than 100 tables will be convened.

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“We believe that informed and engaged communities are essential to democracy,” said Patrick Morgan, Knight Foundation program director for Philadelphia. “We’re pleased to partner with The Philadelphia Foundation and communities in nine other cities to create opportunities to bring neighbors of all backgrounds together.”

Besides Philadelphia, *On the Table* events will take place in Akron, Ohio; Charlotte, N.C.; Columbus, Ga.; Detroit, Mich.; Gary, Ind.; Lexington, Ky.; Miami, Fla., and in Long Beach and San Jose, California.

Planning for the initiative has already brought together a wide-ranging Steering Committee committed to creating a meaningful event.

Besides Ramos and Morgan, Steering Committee members include **Jim Cawley**, President & CEO of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey; **Mike DiBerardinis**, Managing Director, City of Philadelphia; **Sharmain Matlock-Turner**, President & CEO, Urban Affairs Coalition; **Siobhan Reardon**, President and Director, the Free Library of Philadelphia; **Rick Sauer**, Executive Director, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations; **Sandy Shea**, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Philadelphia Media Network; and **Rob Wonderling**, President and CEO, The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia.

The launch also included demonstration tables where attendees modeled how *On the Table Philly* will unfold. Participants included members of the Steering Committee, Temple University students, members of the business community and representatives of OIC Philadelphia, North Broad Street Renaissance, Freedom Theater, The Tech Collective, the State Correctional Institution at Chester, TreeHouse Books, Parent Power and Parents as Grants, and Philadelphia Friends General Conference.

“What you see here today is a taste – if you’ll pardon the pun – of what will take place on May 23,” Ramos said. “There will be more than a hundred fun, engaging and productive conversations that will create new relationships and inform future community and civic initiatives.”

The On the Table conversations will culminate in a participant survey that will aggregate the thoughts shared for a report that will be distributed to the community.

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To register to be a host and receive supporting materials, visit www.onthetablephl.org or email onthetable@philafound.org.

You can also follow the event on social media using the #LetsTalkPhilly on Facebook, Twitter(@OnTheTablePHL) and Instagram.

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About The Philadelphia Foundation

Founded in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation (TPF) seeks to increase effective philanthropic investment in Greater Philadelphia. By connecting individuals and institutions across sectors and geography, and advancing civic initiatives through partnerships and collaboration, we foster the region's economic, civic and social vitality. To learn more, [visit philafound.org](http://visitphilafound.org).

About The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

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://visitknightfoundation.org).