



on the table | CLT
One day. Many voices. One community.

**Community Building Initiative, Foundation For The Carolinas & Knight Foundation
Invite Citizens to Put The Future of Our Community
*On The Table***

*Building & maintaining a more connected, inclusive and opportunity-rich community
on the menu for thousands over mealtime gatherings*

CBI, FFTC issue call for hosts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AUGUST 31, 2017 – Across Mecklenburg County, thousands of people will come together in small groups on October 25, 2017 to discuss how to collaboratively build and maintain a more connected, inclusive and opportunity-rich community. This imaginative public square, an initiative of the [Community Building Initiative](#) and [Foundation For The Carolinas](#) called *On the Table CLT*, is designed to generate ideas, inspire solutions, and cultivate relationships and collaborations to strengthen Mecklenburg County.

On The Table CLT is a community engagement initiative offered by the Community Building Initiative, in partnership with the [John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#) and the [Foundation For The Carolinas](#). Charlotte is one of 10 cities across the U.S. selected to replicate the *On the Table* initiative this year with funding from [Knight Foundation](#).

The goal of *On The Table CLT* is to have 5,000 people of all ages, from throughout our community, participate in more than 500 small groups on October 25, 2017 – with even more connected to the initiative through social media using #OnTheTableCLT.

While the topics, issues and ideas discussed during each of the *On the Table CLT* gatherings will be guided by high level “host packets,” the dialogue will be completely organic and driven by the interests and perspectives of the participants. **NOW IS THE TIME** for interested companies, organizations, groups and individuals to register as hosts at onthetableclt.org, and agree to host one or more gatherings of up to 10 people. The location, invitation list, and time on October 25 is up to the host’s discretion, and there is no cost to participate, unless a host chooses to provide food and/or beverages for participants.

“Charlotte residents are invested in making this community, stronger, more connected and more successful. On the Table is an opportunity to help channel this energy into meaningful dialogue that has the potential to bring positive change to our city,” said Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation program director for Charlotte.

“This effort complements the work of Leading on Opportunity,” explained Brian Collier, [Foundation For The Carolinas](#) executive vice president, “and these organic discussions and genuine community engagement from diverse voices throughout the county will enhance our vision for the future of this region.”

- more -



on the table | CLT

One day. Many voices. One community.

“Our goal in this first year is to unite, engage and connect people in small groups on one day, centered around a common theme,” said Dianne English, Community Building Initiative executive director. “We know that big ideas can spring from small gatherings and that people invest in what they help create.”

At the conclusion of the events on October 25, *On The Table CLT* will send participants a brief email survey, compiled by the University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, to learn more about their experiences in the project. *On The Table CLT* will publicly share these outcomes with participants and the community.

On the Table CLT is made possible through the financial support of the Knight Foundation, and is part of a [larger national initiative in 10 cities across the country](#) to bring residents together in small mealtime conversations to talk about ways to make their neighborhoods stronger, safer and more dynamic based on the success of the original [On the Table](#) initiative organized by The Chicago Community Trust. Foundation For The Carolinas is also providing financial support to the program.

For more information or to sign up to participate as a host, people who live, work or go to school in Mecklenburg County can visit onthetableclt.org.

#

About Community Building Initiative

Community Building Initiative (CBI) is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to advance inclusion and equity in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. CBI's programs and initiatives strengthen connections across difference and build the capacity and commitment of individuals and organizations to more effectively work for inclusion and equity.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Foundation For The Carolinas is a nonprofit community foundation serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of \$2.2 billion, the Foundation encourages and makes possible philanthropic giving by individuals of all means to benefit their communities. Visit www.ffc.org.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

Media Contacts:

Jessica Graham, jessica@fionixconsulting.com
704.668.5342

Dee Grano, dgrano@kelso-communications.com
704-604-7640