



***On The Table* Engages 5,000 Across Mecklenburg County**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – OCTOBER 26, 2017 – More than 5,000 people came together in parks, museums, restaurants, schools, libraries and more yesterday to discuss how to collaboratively build and maintain a more connected, inclusive and opportunity-rich community. The hundreds of gatherings, which were hosted by companies, organizations and individuals, included residents from teens to seniors, and met throughout Mecklenburg County, from Davidson to Pineville. Participants shared their experiences using #onthetableclt, which was a top trending hashtag in the Charlotte area throughout the day.

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

“I had the opportunity to visit conversations throughout the county yesterday,” said Dianne English, Community Building Initiative executive director. “What struck me most was how much people valued making connections with each other, and the love they have for this community.”

On The Table CLT will now 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.

For more information, 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

###