



On the Table brings people together for meaningful conversations to build personal connections, share ideas, and inspire action. When we come together to lend our voices and listen to others, we have the power to make our communities stronger.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Set some guidelines.

Ask every participant to commit to creating a brave space for this conversation to take place. Four things to remember:

- Be respectful – in our language and conversation, we should be respectful to others even if we do not agree.
- Listen and learn from one another.
- Try to keep an open mind.
- The conversation itself matters – we don't have to solve challenges right now, today.

GETTING STARTED:

Make introductions. Ask each participant to share their name, their neighborhood and what brought them to the table.

HAVING THE CONVERSATION:

Pose questions to spark discussion. Invite your participants to consider the following and share their responses, experiences and ideas.

1. What brought you to the table?
2. What would you say if you were bragging about this area? What do we do well? How can we use those things to strengthen our community?
3. What are your hopes for our community, now and in the long term?
4. What are the top needs of our community? How can we individually or collectively address those needs?
5. What strengths can we leverage – individually or collectively – to address those needs?
6. Let's choose a challenge facing our community, neighborhood or region and discuss how we would solve it with a few thousand dollars.
7. Who not at this table is critical to making positive changes within our community? How can we connect with them to create change?
8. How can we use these conversations to bring colleagues, friends and neighbors together to lead change and create a more livable, equitable and just region? What should we do next?

AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION:

Wrapping up your event.

Thank your participants for sharing their thoughts and experiences, and for being part of this important conversation. When we listen and learn from one another, powerful things can happen.

Remind them to:

- Contribute to the conversation online by posting ideas, experiences or photos on social media using #OnTheTableCola.
- Consider applying for a Beyond the Table mini-grant. Central Carolina Community Foundation is awarding grants for solution-focused ideas that emerged from conversations.
- Visit www.OnTheTableCola.org for conversation resources. Learn more about Central Carolina Community Foundation at www.yourfoundation.org.