



HOST GUIDE

COMMON GROUND

SUNDAY. JULY 30. 2017

Where meaningful connections and conversations become possible.

About Hosting a Common Ground conversation

On a single day, Sunday, July 30, 2017, you'll be part of an exciting region-wide initiative to explore the power we, the members of this community, have to connect and communicate in order to build a stronger, safer and more dynamic Cuyahoga County.

Common Ground is the forum for these conversations to take place. By agreeing to host a conversation, you are creating the opportunity for familiarity, understanding and inspiration to take shape between people. And when that inspiration happens, who knows where it can take us.

Thank you for being a part of this special day.

Let's Get Started Planning Your Event

The Day: Sunday, July 30, 2017

Common Ground events will take place on this day during mealtime conversations – breakfast, lunch, dinner and in-between. The place and time are your choice!

The Guests

The invite list is up to you. If you're unsure, start with people you know – friends, family, colleagues and neighbors. We encourage you to expand your circle. Consider reaching out to the larger community by co-hosting your event with a local church or nonprofit. Ask your guests to bring a friend, or invite people from your network that don't already know each other.

The Numbers

Eight to 12 guests per table is ideal. Common Ground is about giving everyone a chance to speak and be heard. If you want to host a larger gathering, consider breaking into smaller groups.

Registration

If you haven't already, register to be a Common Ground Host at www.clevelandfoundation.org/CommonGround, email CommonGround@clevefdn.org, or call 216.615.7253. Once you have committed to hosting, a registration link will be provided to you to share with your invited guests.

Spread the Word

What can we all do to create a more equitable and resilient community? How will you use your Common Ground conversation to bring your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors together to lead change in your organization, neighborhood and throughout Cuyahoga County?

We encourage you and your guests to share commitments and connections with us leading into, during and following your conversations using the hashtag **#CommonGroundCLE**.

We want to showcase the actions emerging from your conversations to inspire collaboration and action from others and continue to drive progress across the region.

Conversational Guidelines: The Question

What can we do together to create a more equitable and resilient community?

This is the question we want all Common Ground discussions to focus on, and it is left VERY open-ended in order to encourage participants to think creatively and reflect on possibilities, rather than fixate on already identified challenges. We welcome hosts to focus their conversations on a specific topic, but ultimately, we ask that the conversation view your chosen topic through the lens of this question.

Keep in mind that every guest's ideas and stories are important, and Common Ground conversations should provide an opportunity for all participants to reflect on what we value most, consider choices and tradeoffs, and invite all ideas.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONVERSATION

Do

- Encourage everyone to participate.
- Invite guests to follow-up and expand on ideas.
- Share your photos, videos and stories on July 30 using the hashtag #CommonGroundCLE on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Call Common Ground at 216.615.7253 if you have any questions.

Don't

- Micromanage the conversation, let it flow freely.
- Be judgmental or dismissive of any person's comments or ideas.
- Promote argument or unproductive debate.
- Be afraid to ask if you have questions on July 30 – we have a team ready to help.

Sample Conversation Menu

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

- What are two positive things about our community? How can we use these positive attributes to better our collective future?
- What are the needs of your neighborhood? Do others at your table from other neighborhoods share the same needs?
- How can we work together to connect with and learn from communities outside of our own?
- Let's choose an issue affecting our community and talk more specifically about how we'd address it – with unlimited time and resources and then, as a challenge, if we only had \$100 and one day to create change.
- Residents from all walks of life across our region will be gathering today at mealtime conversations just like ours. How can we use these conversations to bring people together to create a more equitable and resilient region? What can you do next?

After Your Event

Before your guests depart, encourage them to help us record thoughts, actions and ideas coming out of every conversation by completing the short survey they will receive via email after July 30.

What happens next is up to you – share your success stories, challenges and ideas with us:

- Respond to the **post-event survey** and encourage your guests to respond as well
- Through social media using **#CommonGroundCLE**
- Leave a message with us at **216-615-7253**.
- Send us a note at: Cleveland Foundation, Common Ground, 1422 Euclid Ave., Suite 1300, Cleveland, OH 44115

Thank you for finding common ground with us – we're excited to have you as part of this important conversation.

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For more information and a list of Common Ground partners visit:

www.clevelandfoundation.org/CommonGround

email us at **CommonGround@clevefdn.org** or call **216-615-7253**.

About the Cleveland Foundation



Established in 1914, the Cleveland Foundation is the world's first community foundation and one of the largest today. Through the generosity of donors, the foundation improves the lives of residents of Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties by building community endowment, addressing needs through grantmaking and providing leadership on vital issues. The foundation tackles the community's priority areas – education and youth development, neighborhoods, health and human services, arts and culture, economic development and purposeful aging – and responds to the community's needs.