WHAT?
The Big Table is a community-wide day of conversation. Through intentional dialogue and connection, participants are encouraged to imagine the next steps toward a kind and just future for the central Ohio region. The Columbus Foundation provides a Host Guidebook and materials for the conversation, but each host is encouraged to choose the conversation topic(s) and format, making the discussion their own. Meeting new people, sharing our lived experiences, and actively listening to understand are crucial steps toward building a kind, connected community where everyone has a seat at the table.

WHY?
Amid an epidemic of loneliness and isolation in our society, it is essential to prioritize opportunities for meaningful connection. The Big Table is an invitation for community members to connect, knowing that we don’t have all the answers, but by actively listening and engaging, together, we can acknowledge and address challenges and opportunities. By fostering a culture of curiosity and kindness, we can enhance our individual and collective well-being, opening doors for stronger social bonds and a more connected, resilient community.

WHEN?
Conversations will take place throughout the day on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

WHO?
Everyone has a seat at the table, and anyone can host or participate in a Big Table conversation! The more voices, the better. Big Table discussions are facilitated by volunteer hosts equipped with a guidebook and materials. Most discussions will include 6-10 people; ideally, some or all participants will be meeting each other for the first time.

WHERE?
Hosts choose a location where a group can comfortably meet, including schools, places of worship, parks, community centers, libraries, virtual spaces (Zoom, Teams), offices, etc. No matter the setting of your Big Table conversation, this day is about bringing community members together to listen to and learn from one another.

HOW?
Registration for The Big Table opens on Tuesday, August 13. Visit columbusfoundation.org/thebigtable for more information.