Fact Sheet

WHAT?
Launched in 2016, The Big Table® is a day dedicated to community-wide conversations. Through intentional dialogue and connection, participants are encouraged to imagine the next steps toward a kind and just future for all. The Columbus Foundation provides a Host Guidebook and materials for the conversation, but each host makes the discussion their own. Meeting new people, sharing our lived experiences, and actively listening are crucial steps toward building a kind, connected central Ohio region where everyone has a seat at the table.

WHY?
As neighbors with interconnected lives in an ever-changing, increasingly polarized, and fast-paced world, we can choose to slow down and listen to one another to prepare for whatever tomorrow may bring. Socially connected communities are more trusting, resilient, prosperous, safe, and healthy. Being ready for the opportunities and challenges ahead starts with widening our circles and listening to understand.

WHEN?
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

WHO?
Anyone can host or participate in a Big Table conversation. Everyone has a seat at the table! 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 and learn from one another.

HOW?
Registration for hosts and public table participants opens on Tuesday, September 5. Visit columbusfoundation.org/thebigtable for more information.