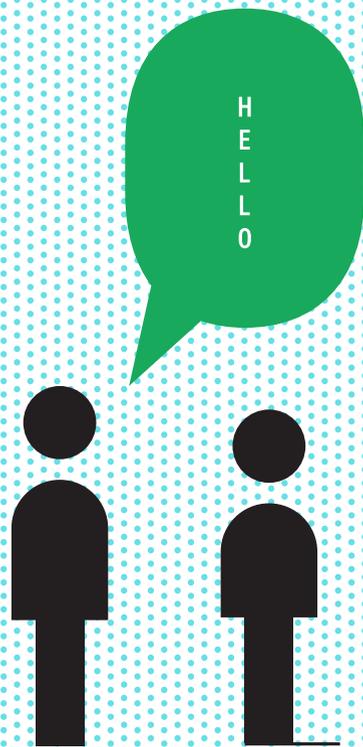


A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are seated at white tables with white tablecloths in an outdoor public square. They are engaged in conversation and eating. In the background, a tall, ornate building with a prominent spire (the City Hall tower) rises against a clear blue sky. The scene is bright and sunny, with green trees and a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a community gathering or event.

COMMON GROUND

2017 SNAPSHOT



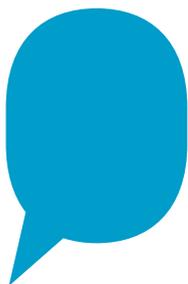
COMMON GROUND

A DAY OF COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
JULY 30, 2017

CLEVELAND
Foundation

2017 SNAPSHOT

INTRODUCTION



Common Ground is achieved by making space for listening, understanding, and empathy. We reach it by discovering what makes us similar and celebrating and respecting what makes us different. On July 30, 2017, more than 2,000 Greater Clevelanders gathered around tables across Cuyahoga County to share a meal and a conversation, in the hopes of finding and creating common ground.

Throughout that day, strangers, friends, and neighbors connected and discussed a wide range of topics. Diverse conversations — ranging from an examination of the region’s opioid crisis to analyzing the benefits of early childhood education — took place in libraries, parks, businesses, nonprofits, and shared spaces across our region.

The Cleveland Foundation and more than 50 community partners convened this day of community conversation not to compile a list of problems to solve, but to create something stronger: authentic connections among people. In a current national environment that can create and reinforce perceived divisions, an invitation to share a meal and a conversation about a topic you care about can be a powerful catalyst to unite communities.

Following these conversations, participants were asked to complete a survey about their civic involvement, their hopes for the community, their experience at their conversation, and the community needs they felt required urgent action. Their responses show an incredible level of community engagement, a desire to personally affect change, and a nearly universal openness toward making new connections and forging common ground.

We are grateful to the hosts and participants who made this first county-wide day of community conversation possible. We look forward to finding Common Ground again on June 24, 2018. Be a host or join a table. Share your love of this place we call home, and help our community create Common Ground.

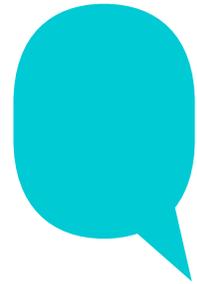
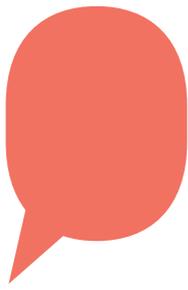


A DAY OF COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

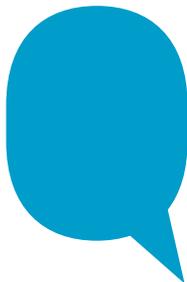


At more than 40 sites across Cuyahoga County, people came together to talk about our community's future. We met as strangers, and left as neighbors. We met in homes, libraries, gardens, churches, schools, neighborhoods, parks, and businesses. Together we shared our points of view on the environment, STEM education, the opioid crisis, diversity, early childhood education, and more. On this one day, thousands of residents explored our community's power to communicate and connect in order to build a stronger, safer and more dynamic home. This report presents details and reflections from Common Ground survey respondents.





FOR THE LOVE OF CLEVELAND SERIES



For six weeks leading up to the inaugural Common Ground event, the Cleveland Foundation partnered with The City Club of Cleveland to present a series of free lunchtime forums on Cleveland Public Square. For the Love of Cleveland brought together panelists from 13 Cleveland neighborhoods to examine critical community issues, inviting residents to enjoy downtown's newest shared space and engage in discussions about the past, present and future of our community. More than 1,000 people attended these forums, underscoring the community's interest in these timely topics.

Recordings from *For the Love of Cleveland* are available at CityClub.org.

2017 SERIES DETAILS

June 13: From White Flight to the Fifth Migration

A panel discussion about the economic and social impact of population movement trends, and the drive to retain young, highly educated residents in urban centers, focusing on the experience of residents and businesses in Goodrich-Kirtland Park and Hough.

June 20: Reinvestment and Opportunity

What role do Cleveland's institutions play in supporting economic growth and development in the neighborhoods in which they do business, discussed through the lens of Clark-Fulton, Fairfax and Hough.

June 27: Too Many Houses, Not Enough Homes

The aftermath of the housing crisis, revitalization efforts, progress made, and the opportunities that remain through the lens of Slavic Village and Kinsman.

July 11: The Geography of Gentrification

Engaged community members discuss the realities of gentrification successes, lessons, and ongoing efforts in Glenville and South of Lorain (SoLo) to ensure equitable community advancement.

July 18: It Takes a Neighborhood

Engaged residents can make all the difference when facing community challenges, discussed through the lens of Lee-Harvard and Detroit-Shoreway.

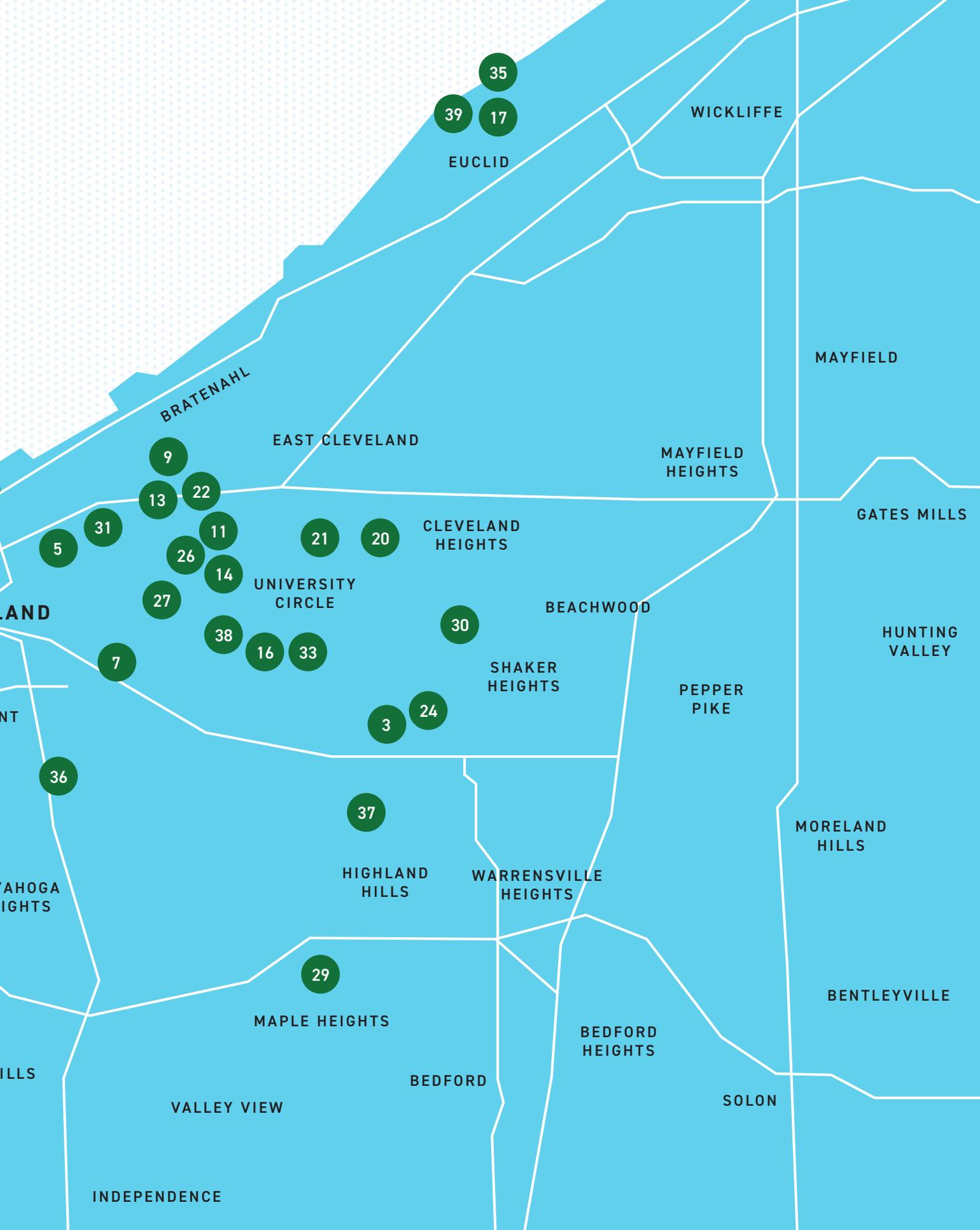
July 25: The Challenges of Success

A discussion about what happens when a neighborhood is "successful," using Ohio City and Downtown Cleveland as a template. What does "success" look like? What can we learn?

MAP OF CONVERSATIONS

LAKE ERIE





COMMON GROUND CONVERSATIONS

- 1. HOSTED BY Cleveland Foundation**
TITLE *Common Ground Lunch on Public Square*
DISCUSSION Greater Cleveland's largest outdoor Common Ground conversation on Public Square brought together over 600 engaged community members to share a meal and forward-looking conversation.
- 2. HOSTED BY Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards and Seeds of Literacy at Toast Wine Bar**
DISCUSSION 66% of Cleveland residents who are 16 years and older are considered to be functionally illiterate. How can we change these numbers?
- 3. HOSTED BY Black Girl CLE at The Dealership**
TITLE *Barriers Black Women Face in the Work Place*
DISCUSSION The barriers and opportunities for women of color in the workplace.
- 4. HOSTED BY Baldwin Wallace University and The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio**
TITLE *Starting Point: Creating Common Ground for Conversations Around Difference*
DISCUSSION The role and influence of diversity in our communities.
- 5. HOSTED BY Better Together Solar**
DISCUSSION Issues around energy justice, pollution, carbon emissions and job creation.
- 6. HOSTED BY Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**
DISCUSSION Safety in our neighborhoods and its impact on our kids.
- 7. HOSTED BY Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. at CornUcopia Place**
DISCUSSION The future of Cleveland's Kinsman neighborhood.
- 8. HOSTED BY Catholic Charities at St. Augustine Tower**
DISCUSSION Promoting the Cuyahoga County Immigration Legal Services Fund.
- 9. HOSTED BY Cleveland Council on World Affairs at the Syrian Cultural Garden**
DISCUSSION How to build a stronger, more internationally-minded Cleveland.
- 10. HOSTED BY Cleveland Metroparks at Edgewater Beach House**
DISCUSSION How we can connect communities in the next 100 years of the Cleveland Metroparks.
- 11. HOSTED BY Cleveland Museum of Natural History**
DISCUSSION How to advocate and inspire girls and women to pursue STEM careers.
- 12. HOSTED BY Cleveland Community Police Commission at Punch Bowl Social**
DISCUSSION Exploring how empowerment drives positive change.
- 13. HOSTED BY City Rising Farm**
DISCUSSION How we can lift up our neighborhoods.
- 14. HOSTED BY University Circle, Inc. and Famicos Foundation**
TITLE *Neighborhoods without Borders*
DISCUSSION University Circle and community partnerships.
- 15. HOSTED BY City of Cleveland Department of Sustainability at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium**
TITLE *Reducing Plastic*
DISCUSSION How to lower the amount of plastic waste in our environment.

- 16. HOSTED BY Cosmic Bobbins at Shaker Square**
DISCUSSION Creativity as a source of neighborhood revitalization.
- 17. HOSTED BY Cuyahoga County Euclid Jail Comprehensive Program Center**
DISCUSSION The challenges of reentry after incarceration and local programs that are assisting.
- 18. HOSTED BY Cuyahoga County Public Library at Parma Snow Branch**
DISCUSSION What an inclusive community means to you.
- 19. HOSTED BY Dick and Cheri Pace at Nuevo Modern Mexican**
TITLE *Early Childhood Education Discussion*
DISCUSSION Improving access to quality early education for all children in our community.
- 20. HOSTED BY Cleveland Heights - University Heights Schools at Cain Park**
TITLE *Equity & Resilience in our Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools*
DISCUSSION Seeking to find commonality in the definitions of "equity," "resilience," and "support" for students.
- 21. HOSTED BY Ensemble Theatre**
DISCUSSION The future development of Ensemble Theatre's Coventry site.
- 22. HOSTED BY Famicos Foundation at Gather in Glenville**
TITLE *Growing Glenville*
DISCUSSION Discuss how you will contribute to the continued growth of Glenville!
- 23. HOSTED BY Global Cleveland**
DISCUSSION Building a more welcoming and inclusive community
- 24. HOSTED BY Heights Christian Church**
DISCUSSION The strengths and challenges of our community.
- 25. HOSTED BY Hispanic Alliance Inc.**
DISCUSSION La Villa Hispana and its future in the community.
- 26. HOSTED BY Judson Manor**
DISCUSSION The changing face of aging in Northeast Ohio.
- 27. HOSTED BY Karamu House**
DISCUSSION Placemaking and the arts.
- 28. HOSTED BY The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland**
DISCUSSION The history of the LGBTQ community, and how we can create a more equitable and resilient community.
- 29. HOSTED BY The Literacy Cooperative at Maple Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library**
DISCUSSION The 30-million-word gap and how to address it.
- 30. HOSTED BY Holley and Rob Martens**
TITLE *Common Ground*
DISCUSSION The future of our region.
- 31. HOSTED BY Neighborhood Solutions at the Vineyards and Winery at Château Hough**
DISCUSSION The future of development in the 7th Ward and other east side communities.

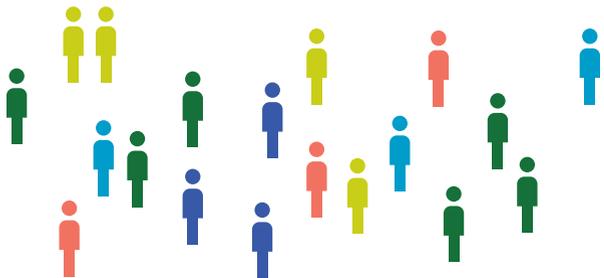
continued

- 32. HOSTED BY** Ohio City Inc. and The Global Table
at The Ohio City Farm
DISCUSSION How we can create a welcoming neighborhood for all residents, businesses and visitors.
- 33. HOSTED BY** Empowering Youth Exploring Justice (EYEJ) *at Plymouth Church*
TITLE *OUR YOUTH: Social Justice*
DISCUSSION How youth in Cleveland can promote social justice.
- 34. HOSTED BY** NOACA
at Blackbird Baking Company
TITLE *Planning for the Region's Transportation Future*
DISCUSSION The future of transportation in the Cleveland region.
- 35. HOSTED BY** Shore Cultural Centre
DISCUSSION How art can affect a community.
- 36. HOSTED BY** Slavic Village Development
at The Village Stage
DISCUSSION Addressing Community Issues: if we had unlimited time and resources and then, as a challenge, if we only had \$100 and one day to create change.
- 37. HOSTED BY** Tony Searight Investment Education For Youth *at McDonalds on Lee Road*
DISCUSSION Youth, investment, and entrepreneurship.
- 38. HOSTED BY** Western Reserve Land Conservancy
at Britt Oval
DISCUSSION What we can do together to help neighborhoods thrive.
- 39. HOSTED BY** WISH Cleveland, the City of Euclid, and Shooting Without Bullets
at The Greenhouse
DISCUSSION Viewing and discussing the locally produced film "UNDEREXPOSED."
- 40. HOSTED BY** WKYC
DISCUSSION What is Common Ground and how can we as a community participate?
- 41. HOSTED BY** YMCA of Greater Cleveland *at Downtown Parker Hannifin YMCA*
DISCUSSION How we can solve the opioid crisis in our community.
- 42. HOSTED BY** YMCA of Greater Cleveland and Global Cleveland *at West Park Family YMCA*
DISCUSSION How we can support refugees and immigrants coming into our community.

WHAT WE HEARD

SURVEY RESPONDENTS WERE HOPEFUL

Following the Common Ground event, all participants were asked to complete a survey about their experience. This survey was built to determine how attendees felt about their Common Ground conversation, to assess the demographics of those who responded, and to gauge their feelings of community engagement and empowerment. Typical surveys are usually completed by about 15% of attendees, according to industry standards. The Common Ground follow-up survey had twice the industry standard response rate – 31% – providing a unique and valuable perspective into our community.



THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID:

Three-quarters of those surveyed (76%) want to create positive change in the community. Nearly the same number (75%) of respondents want to work with others to improve the quality of life in Greater Cleveland.

76%

WANT TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY

75%

WANT TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN GREATER CLEVELAND

THEY WERE MOTIVATED TO CONNECT.

The majority (92%) of respondents spoke with one or more attendees they did not already know. Nearly half (45%) exchanged contact information with one or more attendees they did not know. And 16% made specific plans to work with another attendee to address a new idea, issue or project in the future.

WHAT WE HEARD

FROM SURVEY RESPONDENTS

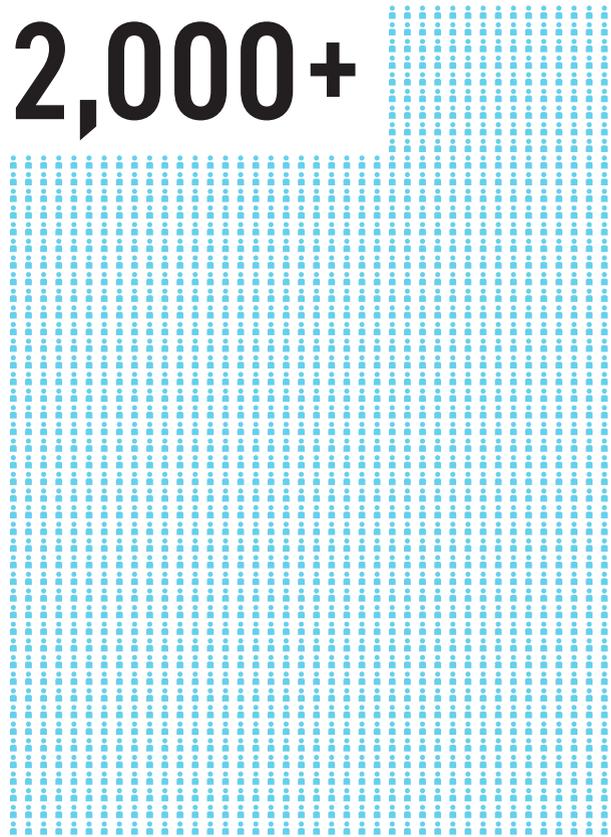
THEY WERE COMPELLED TO ACT.

A large majority (85%) responded they were very likely or somewhat likely to take specific action regarding a new idea, concern, or issue being discussed. Additionally, a significant majority (78%) are already involved in community and neighborhood activities, showing that Common Ground participants represent a subset of Greater Clevelanders who are already civically-engaged.

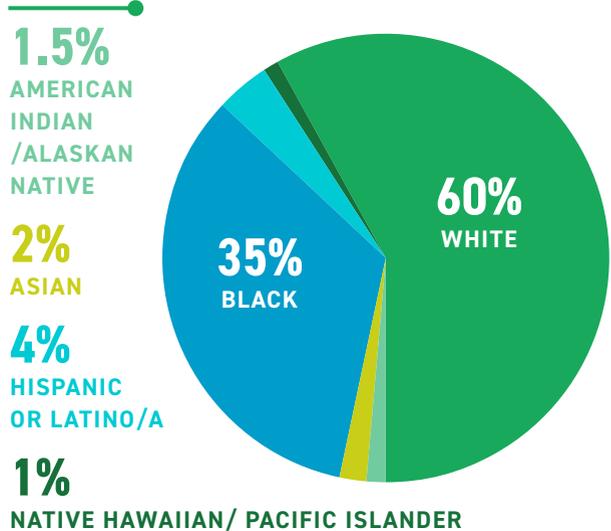
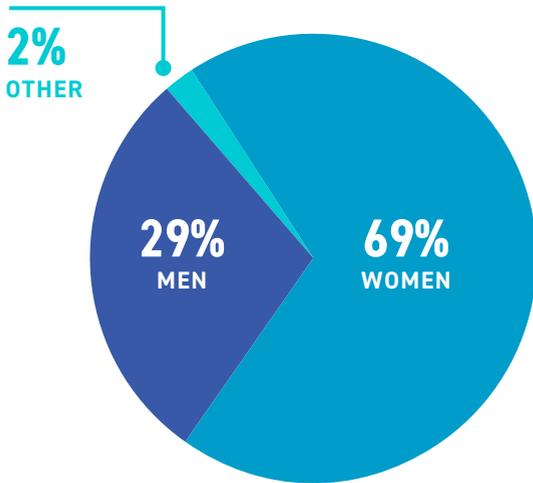
THEY WERE LARGELY FEMALE AND RACIALLY DIVERSE.

Demographically, respondents were overwhelmingly female (69%), but the racial and ethnic breakdown of responses (58% white, 34% black, 4% Hispanic or Latino) reflected the demographic breakdown of Cuyahoga County. *(Census.gov indicates that Cuyahoga County in 2016 was 64% white, 30.5% black, and 5.7% Hispanic)*

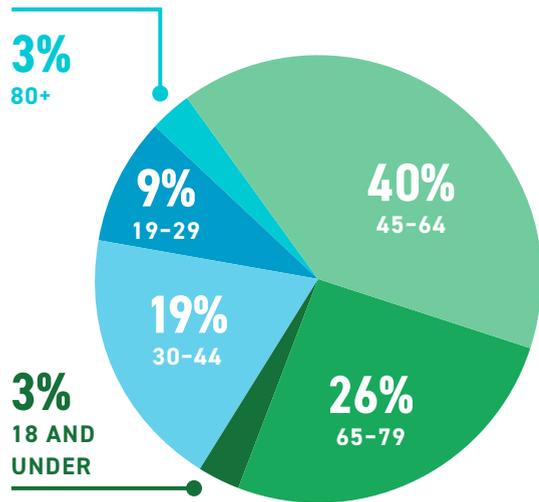
Attendees



Demographics of Survey Respondents



Age of Survey Respondents



Median Age of Survey Respondents

FIFTY-TWO

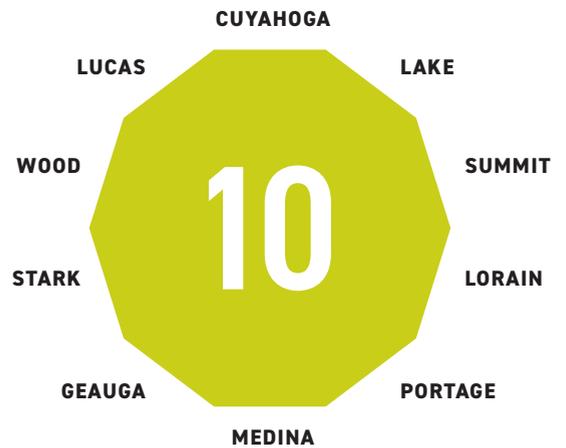
Total Locations



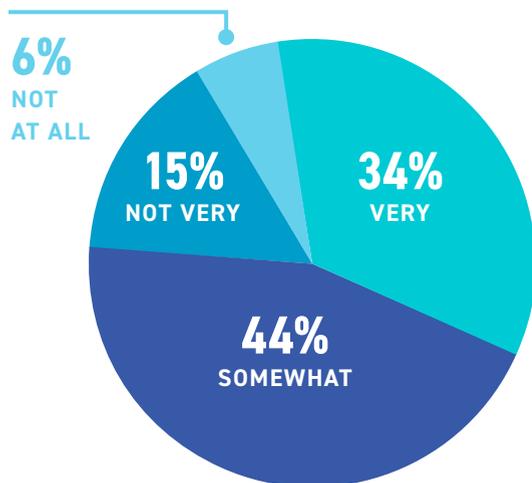
Zip Codes



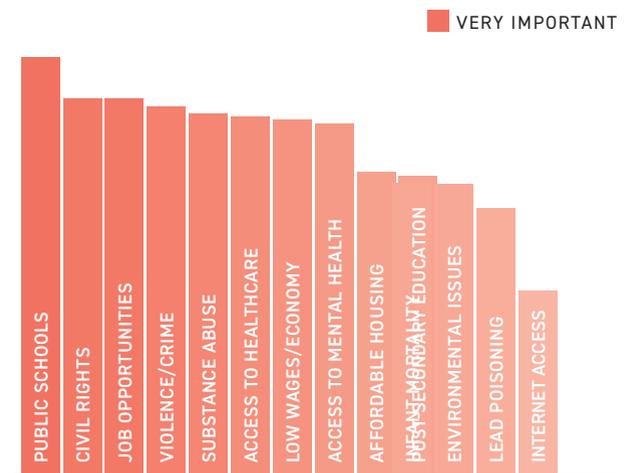
Counties



How involved are you in your community?



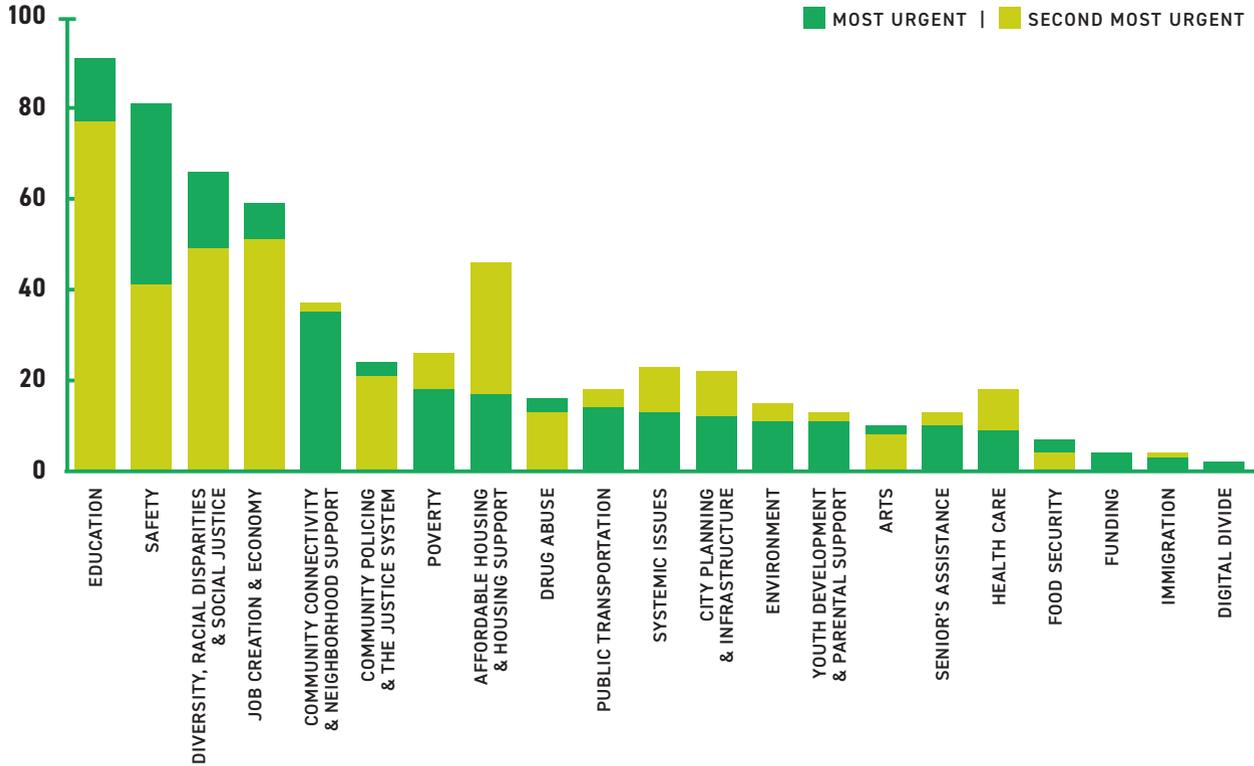
How important are the following problems facing our community today?



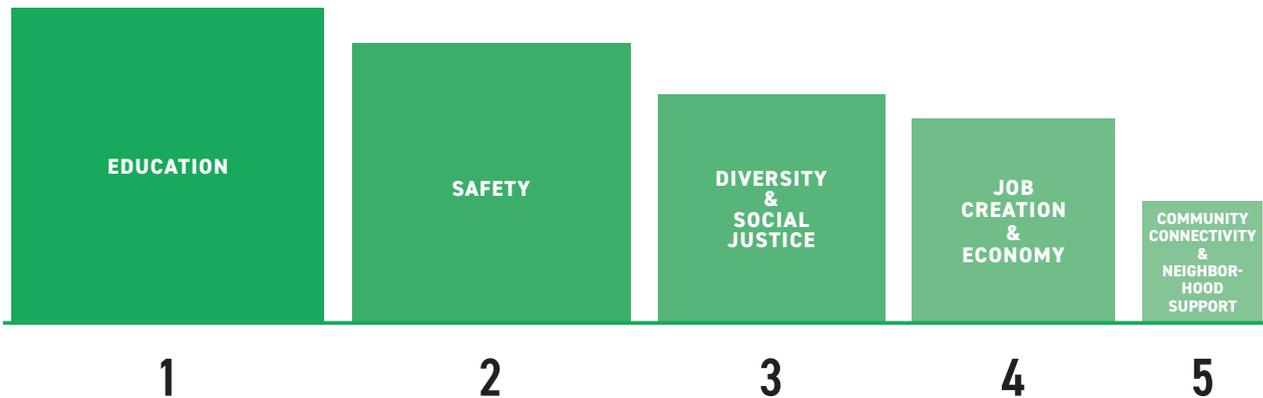
WHAT WE HEARD

FROM SURVEY RESPONDENTS

When asked to rank the most urgent areas of community needs, respondents revealed the following:



TOP FIVE CONCERNS



45%

I EXCHANGED CONTACT INFORMATION WITH ONE OR MORE ATTENDEES I DID NOT ALREADY KNOW

"We all decided we want to meet again."

HOW DID YOU CONNECT WITH OTHERS AT COMMON GROUND?

"We have made plans to participate in a joint venture with a music group from Mentor that we connected with at the Common Ground event."

17%

I MADE SPECIFIC PLANS TO WORK WITH ONE OR MORE ATTENDEES TO ADDRESS A NEW IDEA, ISSUE, OR PROJECT IN THE FUTURE

WHICH IDEA DISCUSSED AT YOUR CONVERSATION DO YOU THINK HAS THE MOST POTENTIAL TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

"Trust. Strengthening connections among people and institutions in the neighborhoods."

"Being aware that we are all hoping and aiming to live in a safe and prosperous city—we need to work together and get along so we can accomplish this."

"Continue to have courageous conversations about how to gain support for public education."

"By learning how to organize and activate our community in a better, more inclusive way, we can help write a blue print for others..."

**PLEASE SHARE
THE MOST INSPIRING
STORY THAT YOU
HEARD DURING YOUR
CONVERSATION:**

"I have ADHD and am a rising student. It was super cool to see how successful my mediator was in her own field, especially because she has dyslexia."

"Living in urban areas where houses are close to one another results in a closer relationship with community members. How one uses that relationship to create a meaningful community can be determined by one's approach."

"A 40-year-old man discussing how discrimination affected his childhood."

"It was great to see that so many folks care about so many things. Sadly, there is a lot of frustration, as they feel that they get nowhere...when trying to get things done."

"More diverse than I expected"

"Very interactive and civil"

**WHAT SURPRISED
YOU ABOUT
THE CONVERSATION?**

"We all came from different areas of the community but all agreed that we wanted similar things and had a lot in common"

"Willingness to listen and complete honesty between complete strangers"

WHAT DO YOU
WISH YOU HAD BEEN ABLE
TO TALK ABOUT?

"Community
service locations"

"No topic felt
off-limits"

"Student voices"

"We needed
more time"

"Actions and solutions
—we were very broad
in our approaches"

"Lots of thoughts and
ideas are still running
around in my head."

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU
TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTION
REGARDING A NEW IDEA,
CONCERN OR ISSUE
DISCUSSED?
PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE.

"Talking to my
councilman"

85%

REPLIED THEY WERE VERY LIKELY
OR SOMEWHAT LIKELY TO TAKE
SPECIFIC ACTION ON THEIR
COMMON GROUND DISCUSSION.

"Getting my
school involved"

"Continue the
conversation"

"Mentoring"

"Find more and better
ways to communicate about
existing programs"

WHAT'S NEXT

96%

OF PARTICIPANTS WOULD RECOMMEND JOINING A COMMON GROUND CONVERSATION TO THEIR FRIENDS OR FAMILY.

At the Cleveland Foundation, we believe in creating spaces where meaningful connections can become possible. It was in this spirit — to encourage the crossing of paths and to foster an exchange of ideas — that Common Ground started. Thanks to our community and our partners, Common Ground became more than that. By participating in this day of community reflection, each resident became a part of the work happening in Greater Cleveland to improve the future of our community — our shared home, our common ground.

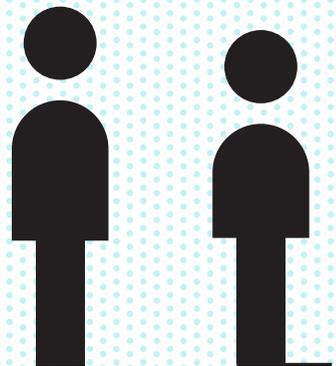
Keep that momentum going by hosting your own conversation at Common Ground 2018. Save the date for June 24, 2018 and sign up today. Whether you want to invite a small group of friends to share meal at your home or a local park, or join a larger group at a local organization or in your neighborhood, Common Ground will be happening close to you at locations across Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties.

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018
COMMON GROUND

**BE A HOST.
JOIN A TABLE.
FIND COMMON GROUND.**

Questions?
Call 216.615.7253
or email
CommonGround@clevelandfn.org



THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards
Baldwin Wallace University
Better Together Solar
Black Girl CLE
Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland
Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.
Catholic Charities
The City Club of Cleveland
City of Cleveland Department of Sustainability
City of Euclid
City Rising Farm
Cleveland Community Police Commission
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools
Cleveland Metroparks
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland Public Square
Cosmic Bobbins
Council for Economic Opportunities
Cuyahoga County
Cuyahoga County Euclid Jail Comprehensive Program Center
Cuyahoga County Public Library
The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio
Downtown Cleveland Alliance
Edible Cleveland
Empowering Youth Exploring Justice (EYEJ)
Ensemble Theatre
Famicos Foundation
Global Cleveland
The Global Table
Greater Cleveland Congregations
Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Heights Christian Church
Hispanic Alliance Inc. and La Villa Hispana
Judson Manor
Karamu House
The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
The Literacy Cooperative
Holley and Rob Martens
Neighborhood Connections
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)
The Ohio City Farm
Ohio City Inc.
Old Stone Church
Dick and Cheri Pace
Plymouth Church
Seeds of Literacy
Shooting Without Bullets
Shore Cultural Centre
Slavic Village
Soldiers and Sailors Monument
Syrian Cultural Garden
Tony Searight Investment Education for Youth
University Circle, Inc.
Vineyards & Winery at Château Hough
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
WISH Cleveland
WKYC
YMCA of Greater Cleveland
Parker Hannifin Downtown YMCA
West Park Family YMCA

ABOUT THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION



Established in 1914, the Cleveland Foundation is the world's first community foundation and one of the largest today, with assets of \$2.45 billion and annual grants of more than \$90 million. 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, and economic development — and responds to the community's needs.

For more information on the Cleveland Foundation, visit ClevelandFoundation.org and follow us on Facebook ([/ClevelandFoundation](https://Facebook.com/ClevelandFoundation)), Twitter ([@CleveFoundation](https://Twitter.com/CleveFoundation)) and Instagram ([@CleveFoundation](https://Instagram.com/CleveFoundation)). [Learn more about Common Ground at ClevelandFoundation.org/CommonGround](https://ClevelandFoundation.org/CommonGround)



