



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is On The Table?

On Tuesday, Oct. 23 thousands of Bay Area residents will come together over meal-time conversations and work breaks to identify solutions to our region's housing challenges. While these conversations are building on last year's On The Table 2017 event, anyone can be a host and all participants are welcome—new and returning individuals alike. After this year's event, ideas discussed during On The Table conversations will be considered for regional recommendations for housing solutions and community action. This initiative is an opportunity for your company to be heard by the community and for your organization to be part of the solution to Silicon Valley's housing issues.

### What's involved when a business hosts an On The Table discussion?

Businesses can host onsite conversations with workers and empower staff to host their own conversations on site, during lunch or a break. One individual can host a conversation or two people can co-host. Host responsibilities are straightforward and include:

- 1. Selecting a location at your office:** Hosts are encouraged to reserve a meeting room, part of the office cafeteria, breakroom or other gathering space at work that can accommodate several participants meeting over a meal or coffee break.
- 2. Encouraging employees to participate:** Companies hosting On The Table enjoy the best results when they let their coworkers know about the event a couple weeks in advance and ask people to make plans to attend. Conversations can occur over a meal, potluck, coffee break or whatever works best for participants. So that everyone gets a chance to be heard, the ideal conversation includes 10 people or fewer. Those who wish to host larger gatherings should consider breaking people into smaller groups. Hosts should not worry about ensuring that a certain number of people participate; smaller gatherings can be very successful and provide even more opportunities to participate.
- 3. Asking participants to complete a survey about their conversation experience:** To gather information about community members' civic engagement experience, SVCF is asking hosts and participants to complete an anonymous survey after their conversations that we have co-developed with two professional research firms. In the months after On The Table, SVCF will share survey findings with the community, conversation participants and hosts.

### How does a business or employer get started to become a host?

Visit [siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable](http://siliconvalleycf.org/onthetable) to register and find out more. All hosts are invited to join an orientation session and receive resources and other tools to help make the most of their conversations. These sessions will last one hour, and are offered on multiple dates and times at various locations in the region in early October. SVCF also distributes a host guide to all registered hosts that includes facilitation and planning tips, as well as conversation questions that will help guide participants towards housing solutions.

### What else is expected of a host during an On The Table gathering?

We encourage all participants, including hosts to share insights, photos and videos on social media throughout the day, using #onthetableSV. We look forward to hearing about the stories and ideas discussed at your gathering.