

**Silicon Valley *On the Table* Participants:  
Motivated to Work Together to Address Silicon Valley's Housing Challenges**

The 2018 Silicon Valley Community Foundation *On the Table* conversations focused on identifying solutions to the region's housing challenges. Participants who completed the post-conversation survey tend to be more worried than hopeful about the future of their community. Nevertheless, and perhaps because of their concern, they feel empowered to improve their community, are optimistic that residents can come together to bring positive change, and are interested in regularly coming together with fellow residents in small groups to discuss housing challenges and solutions.

**Worried about the future:** Participants are more worried than hopeful about the future, and the majority do not think their community provides opportunities for everyone.

- ✓ By 64% to 36%, participants are more worried than hopeful about what the future holds for their community.
- ✓ While the majority (62%) believe that their area has a strong sense of community, the majority (57%) do *not* think their community is changing for the better, and 69% do *not* think it provides opportunities for everyone.
- ✓ They offer a split decision on whether their community is more united (49%) or more divided (51%).

**Empowered and motivated to improve their community:** Participants believe residents can bring positive change to the community, and they are eager to make a difference.

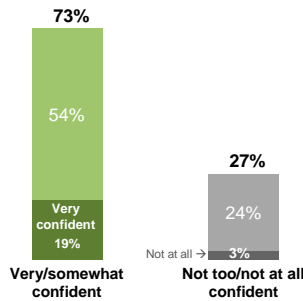
- ✓ Participants are most likely to think nonprofits and community organizations (65%) are having the greatest impact on making their community a better place to live.
- ✓ Nonetheless, they clearly think that residents have a role to play:
  - Half identify community residents as having the greatest impact in improving their community.
  - The large majority of participants (79%) believe people like themselves can have an impact on improving their community.
- ✓ Nearly nine in 10 (87%) say they are likely to take specific actions regarding issues they discussed at 2018 Silicon Valley *On the Table* conversations.

**Optimistic that residents can come together to address Silicon Valley's housing challenges:** Housing is the top issue priority among these *On the Table* participants, and they are confident that residents can come together to address this critical issue facing the region.

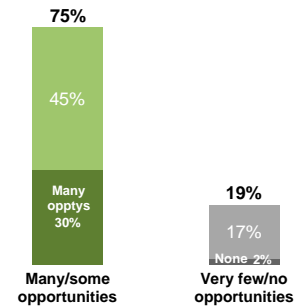
- ✓ On the heels of the conversations that focused on identifying solutions to the region's housing challenges, participants rank housing—including affordable housing and reducing homelessness—as far and away the top priority that they would like their community to address. (87% select it as one of three priorities.) Second-tier issue priorities include poverty/economic security (29%), affordable healthcare (23%), good-paying jobs/economic development (21%), and public transportation (20%).

- ✓ The large majority (73%) are confident that residents across different parts of Silicon Valley can come together to positively address regional housing challenges.
- ✓ Three in four feel there are opportunities for them personally to get involved in addressing housing challenges in the community.

How confident are you that residents across different parts of Silicon Valley—from San Francisco to San Benito County—can come together to address regional housing challenges in a positive and helpful way?



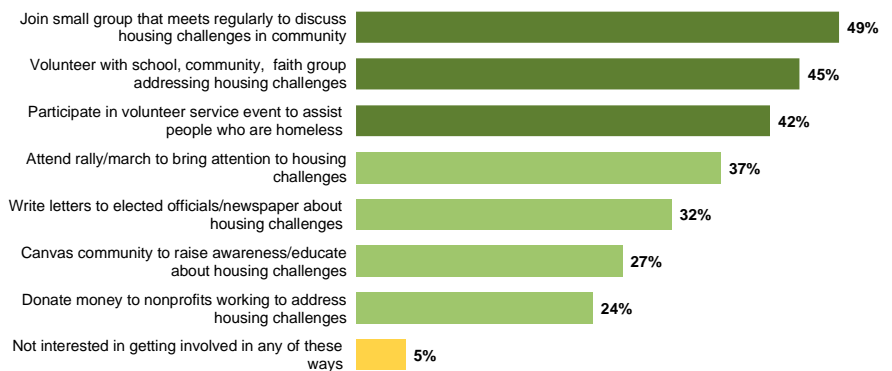
To what degree do you feel there are opportunities for you personally to get involved in addressing housing challenges in your community?



**Interest in community conversations and volunteering:** Participants express interest in meeting in small groups to discuss housing challenges and potential solutions, as well as volunteering to address it.

- ✓ Participants are most interested in addressing housing challenges facing their community by joining a small group that meets regularly to discuss the issue (49%), volunteering with an organization to address it (45%), and participating in a service event to assist homeless people (42%). The appeal of these forms of engagement spans age, race, and ethnicity.

In which THREE of these ways that people can get involved in addressing housing challenges facing their community would you be most interested in getting involved?



- ✓ The biggest barrier to greater involvement is a lack of time (45%), but uncertainty about how to get involved (27%) or what they could do that would be helpful (26%) are second-tier barriers. Notably, less than one in five express no interest in getting more involved in addressing regional housing challenges.

**On The Table Conversation Experience:** The conversations had a significant impact on participants' understanding of the region's housing challenges and how to address them.

- ✓ Participants made connections at the conversations: 64% say they spoke with at least one person they did not know before, and 32% say they exchanged contact information with someone they met there.
- ✓ They indicate that the conversations not only had an impact on their understanding of the region's housing challenges but on their motivation to get involved in addressing them, their awareness of organizations addressing them, and their sense of how they can personally get involved in addressing them.

From October 23 to November 26, 2018, Silicon Valley Community Foundation hosted its 2018 On the Table conversations with generous support from the Knight Foundation. Silicon Valley Community Foundation estimates that approximately 2,200 adults participated in the conversations. This memo presents key findings among 420 adults who participated in On the Table conversations and completed the post-conversation survey. The survey was conducted online and via paper by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies.