



**BLUE GRASS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
WE'RE IN IT FOR GOOD.

on the table
your voice matters.

2017 Impact Report Highlights



WE'RE IN IT FOR GOOD.



Neighborhoods energized and growing. A community that is vibrant, sustainable and equitable. A city that is generous, engaged and connected from end to end. These are just a few of our goals for Lexington.

Blue Grass Community Foundation is a public charity established by local citizens 50 years ago to encourage giving and improve the quality of life in Lexington and all the communities we serve. The Community Foundation is a starting place for people who have always wanted to give and those who never knew they could.

It's a place to bring ideas and take them forward. By participating in the Community Foundation's efforts – whether it's *On the Table*, establishing a charitable fund, contributing to the Town Branch Park fundraising effort, supporting a local nonprofit in the GoodGiving Challenge or giving time to community efforts – your involvement can lead to a stronger, more vibrant and generous community.

Since 1967, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$77.5 million in grant funding to thousands of organizations, including \$9 million in FY2017.

Doing Good Together We believe by working together, we create a stronger, better community for all. *On the Table* was made possible by our many committed partners. Our planning partners included the city of Lexington, its Division of Planning, Leadership Lexington and Fayette County Public Schools. Generous funding support was provided by The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Community Foundation and Leadership Lexington.

Informing the Future How do we create change? A good conversation is a great place to start. *On the Table* was a first-of-its-kind community engagement initiative in Lexington centered around organic, informal, community conversations. The conversations were intended to further the work of the Community Foundation as it reflects upon its first 50 years and looks toward the future, and also serves to inform Imagine Lexington (the city's comprehensive plan). The genuine community engagement from diverse voices – more than 11,000 people from every residential zip code throughout the city – will enhance Lexington's vision for the future.

On the Table conversations are all about encouraging Lexingtonians to think about the issues they care about, while adding a diversity of voices to the discussion about who we are, where we're going and what we can do to get there. It's about discovering how each of us can join the thousands of people making Lexington a better place to live for everyone.

Thanks for joining us at the table!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Adkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Lisa Adkins, JD
President/CEO

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP.

At Blue Grass Community Foundation, we know big ideas spring from small conversations and people invest in what they help create. When we come together as a community to listen to and learn from each other, we have the power to impact both neighborhoods and lives.

On March 15, 2017, more than 11,700 Lexingtonians came together to do just that by

joining us for *On the Table*. Ten to 12 people – both friends and strangers – gathered around a table to share food and drink, discussing our quality of life and what each of us can do to make it even better. And, through survey responses from nearly 1,500 participants, we also gained a deeper understanding of the issues most important to our city.

As Blue Grass Community Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary of serving not only Lexington, but also communities across central and Appalachia Kentucky, we are pleased to present you with these highlighted findings of *On the Table* 2017.

To download the full 2017 Impact Report, go to bgcf.org/onthetable/2017impactreport

“We believe in the power of conversation to clarify, energize and organize people to do things for good.”

**BLUE GRASS
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imagine
LEXINGTON



LEXINGTON

It's
about kids.
FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION

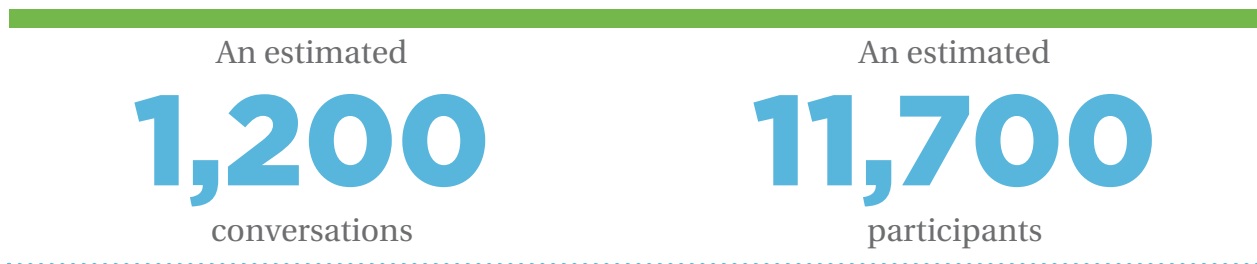


LEADERSHIP LEXINGTON
engage. connect. inspire.

KF KNIGHT FOUNDATION

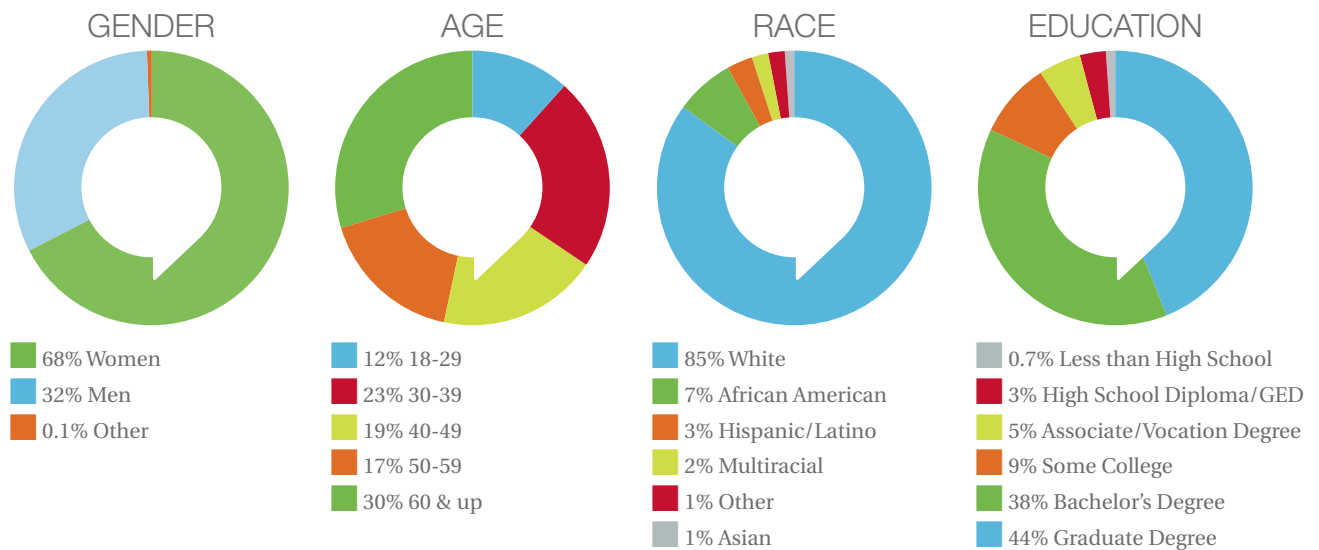
THE PEOPLE.

On the Table 2017 engaged participants from all walks of life – representing diverse ages, races, interests, levels of civic engagement and more.*



Following *On the Table*, **1,464 participants** responded to the survey.

A Highly Engaged and Self-Motivated Group:

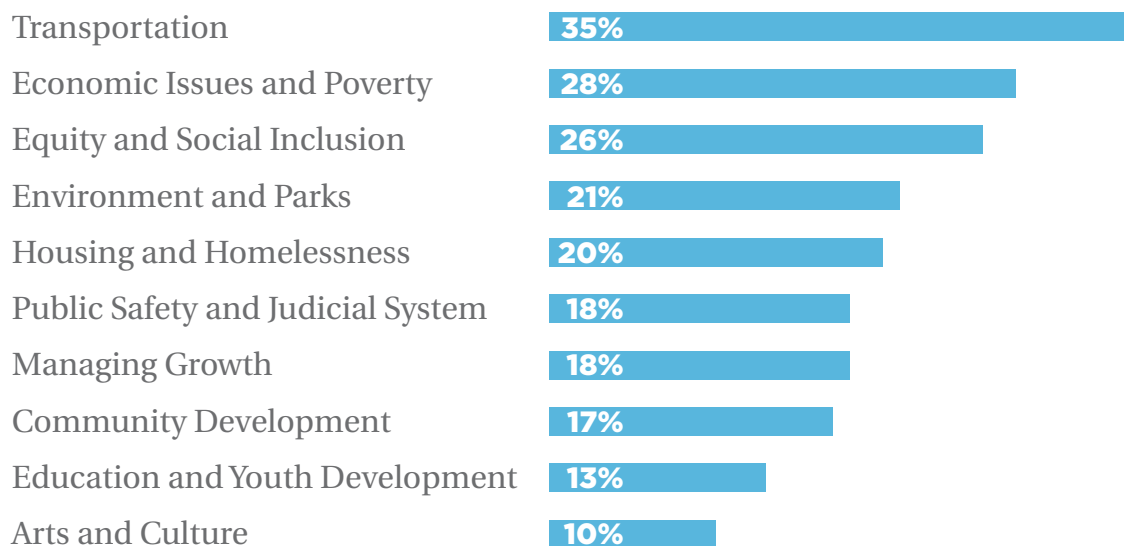


*This data only represents the people who participated in *On the Table* and completed the post-conversation survey. It is not reflective of all *On the Table* participants.

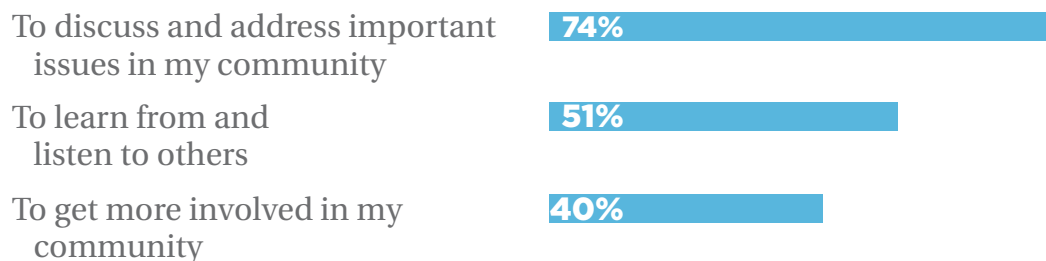
THE CONVERSATIONS.

On the Table 2017 conversations highlighted issues community members across the city and county care about — and united participants to talk about ways we can address them.

These are the 10 topics most frequently discussed by *On the Table* participants:



Why did Lexingtonians join the conversation?



62% of respondents spoke with one or more attendees they did not already know.

THE ATTITUDES AND IMPACT.

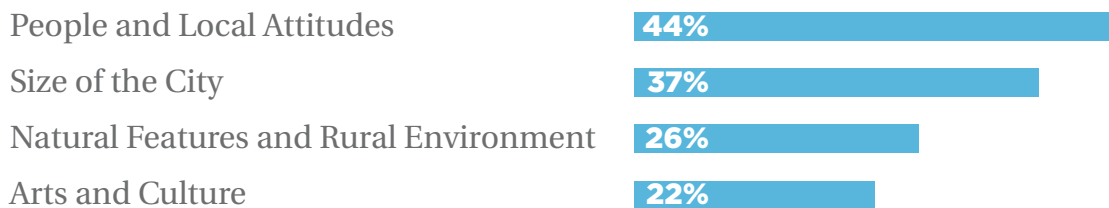
97%

of respondents rate Lexington as a good or excellent place to live

93%

of respondents feel somewhat to very attached to their local community

What do respondents find most appealing about Lexington?



83%

... of respondents say they better understand how they can help address community issues as a result of their *On the Table* conversations.

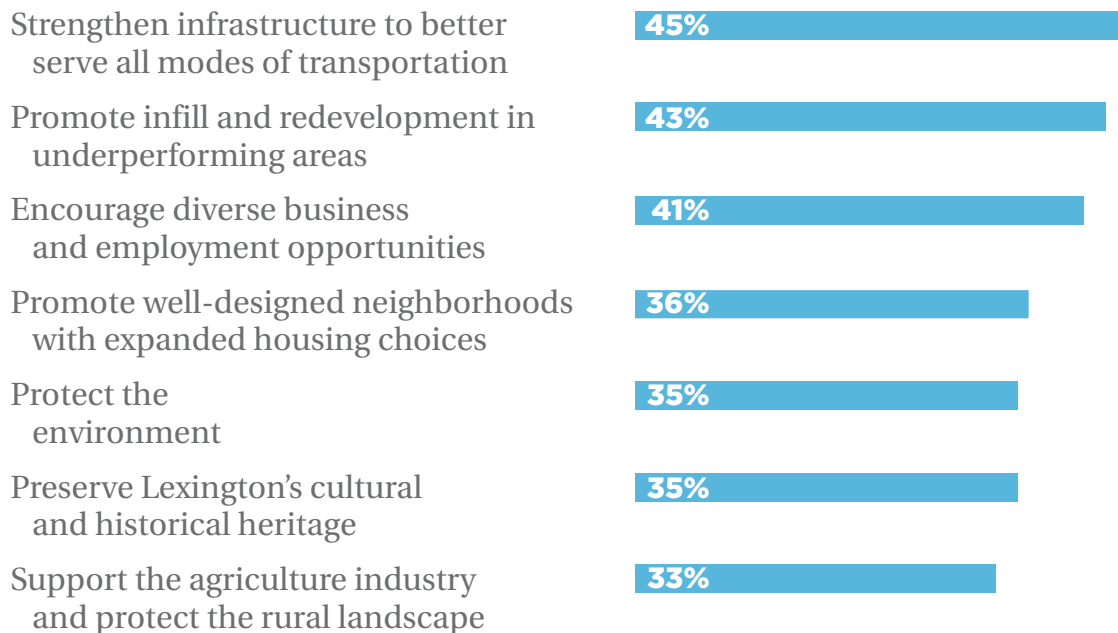
... of respondents believe they can have a moderate to big impact on making our community a better place to live.

1.3 million ON THE TABLE SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

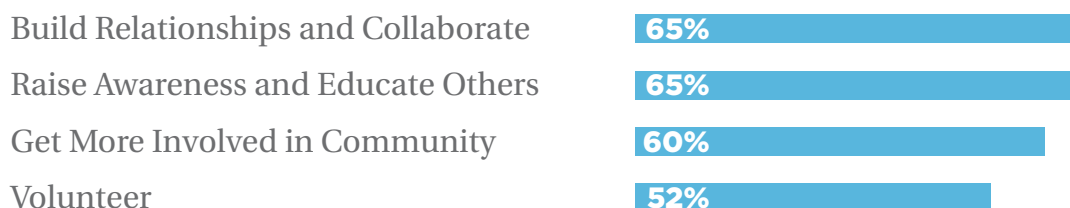
THE OPPORTUNITY.

On the Table attracts some of the most civically engaged people in our area – and inspires them to take action.

Respondents identified these as the **top priorities** for improving Lexington:



More than 80 percent of respondents are somewhat to very likely to take specific actions or next steps regarding an issue or solution discussed. Specifically, **respondents said they plan to:**



WHAT'S NEXT?

Grants to Move *On the Table* Ideas Into Action

On the Table participants were excited about the fresh, innovative ideas to build a better Lexington generated during their conversations on March 15. To help realize some of these ideas and to celebrate Blue Grass Community Foundation's 50th anniversary, we're excited to announce **What's Next Grants!**

The Community Foundation will award \$50,000 in quick action grants – up to twenty-five \$2,000 grant awards – to support ideas arising from our inaugural *On the Table* conversations. Details will be available beginning August 28, 2017.

SAVE THE DATE: *On the Table* 2018!

It was so informative and so much fun, we're doing it again! On **March 28, 2018**, join us for a day of civic reflection as we gather around a table with friends, neighbors, colleagues and maybe even a few people we'll be meeting for the first time, to talk about issues big and small. In celebration of the Community Foundation's

50th anniversary, not only will we continue to discuss our quality of life, but we'll also add the topic of generosity to the table. We will reflect how we as a community show up for one another – as individuals and institutions – to make commitments and act on them to improve the quality of life for all.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INSPIRING GENEROSITY

BLUE GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BGCF50

50 YEARS OF INSPIRING GENEROSITY

Blue Grass Community Foundation kicks off its 50th anniversary year – a 12-month celebration of inspiring generosity – on August 26, 2017. Throughout the year we'll be sharing stories, ideas and activities to inspire and create even more generosity. You're invited to join us! Our goal is

ambitious, but we want to start a movement that reimagines philanthropy and makes our region the most generous and compassionate in the nation. For up-to-date information about all of our Inspiring Generosity activities, be sure to follow us on:



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Photos courtesy of Geoff Maddock and Sarah Jane Sanders