

At the Table Colorado

“Strengthening communities through dialogue”

Mission Statement

Convene annual forums, throughout Colorado designed to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships and inspire collaborative action across the state.

History

At the Table Colorado (ATTC) is an inclusive, ethnically diverse, multigenerational conversation that reaches all socioeconomic levels. It brings people from all walks of life together, to participate in a series of free community wide conversations about what makes their neighborhoods/communities/regions great and what can be done to make them even better – more sustainable, stronger and vibrant.

ATTC is based on a community engagement concept developed by the Chicago Community Trust (CCT) and launched in 2014 as [On the Table](#). In partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, CCT developed an extensive survey and report that has informed each subsequent year's event. CCT reports for 2014-2017 can be found at [On the Table](#)

The overwhelmingly successful "Table" events have spread to 26 other cities. ATTC will have a statewide presence in our first year and be the first in the Rocky Mountain west. We are collaborating with Colorado State University, Center for Public Deliberation to develop our survey and report.

At the Table Colorado

“Strengthening communities through dialogue”

Vision

During one week, in every Colorado neighborhood/community/region, residents will come together to break bread and discuss how to collaboratively build and maintain strong, safe and dynamic communities.

This imaginative public square aims to generate new ideas and inspire bold solutions while cultivating relationships and collaborations to improve communities' state wide.

Basic Tenets

- Maximum Flexibility
- Inclusive and Intimate
- No Agendas
- Solution Oriented
- Affirm and Inspire
- Stay Connected
- Sustainable

At the Table Colorado

“Strengthening communities through dialogue”

Format

Host recruitment: two tracks

Request that community nonprofits/grant makers **Host a Table**.

Open public request for **Hosts** through media and community outreach.

- Support Hosts with trainings: online and webinars
- Host Kit event materials

Bilingual outreach: English and Spanish with additional translation as needed.

Host Responsibilities:

- Chooses the topic of discussion
- Chooses the site and day/time
- Issues the invitations to conversation participants (10-12 people per conversation or Table)
- Will it be over coffee or a shared meal; potluck, catered, donated, etc.
- Encourages attendees to complete the online survey (paper surveys will be available).

Possible Sites

- Libraries
- Offices
- Churches
- Parks
- Museums
- Restaurants
- Schools
- Universities
- Businesses
- Art Galleries
- Health Clubs
- Public Buildings
- Private Homes
- Community Colleges
- Mosques
- Health Care Centers
- Coffee Shops
- Media Outlets
- Senior Communities
- Synagogues
- Rec Centers
- Civic Groups
- Nonprofits
- Homeless Shelters

At the Table Colorado

“Strengthening communities through dialogue”

Goals

Participants

- Encourage diversity –bring new and different people to the conversation.
- Include residents from all walks of life, across the state.
- Every county in the state represented.
- Urge attendees to assist in development of future events, by completing the survey.

Afterwards

- Stronger, more inclusive community and regional networks throughout Colorado.
- Raise awareness of the *At the Table Colorado* initiative, as well as the ideas and actions coming out of the conversations by sharing on social media.
- Award Action Grants of \$1500 to groups that develop an action plan based on their conversation.
- Follow-up report based on participant survey.
- Follow-up events focused on action steps.