



ON THE TABLE 2014 IMPACT REPORT

PREPARED BY
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FOR
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

OCTOBER 7, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
I. Introduction	6
II. Who Participated?	7
A. Registrants by Age	7
B. Registrants by Race/Ethnicity and Gender	7
C. Residency of Registrants	8
III. What was Discussed?	10
A. Demographic Information on Survey Respondents	10
B. Motivation and Participation	11
C. Quality and Tone of Conversations	11
D. Common Themes Discussed	12
1. Design and Analysis of Open Response Survey Questions	12
2. Conversation Themes	13
– Education	13
– Community Engagement	14
– Equity and Social Inclusion	15
– Collaboration	16
– Other Main Topics of Discussion	17
3. Issues and Ideas	18
– Issues Discussed	18
– Ideas Discussed	19
4. Ideas Shared on the <i>On the Table</i> Website	20
5. Big Ideas	20
E. Social Media: “The Conversation about the Conversation”	21
IV. How Did the Conversations Impact Participants?	25
A. Better Understanding of Issues	25
B. New Connections	25
C. An Actionable Vision for Change	26
D. Civic Engagement Activities Before and After <i>On the Table</i>	26
E. Emergent Actions	27
F. Shifting Priorities: From Issues to Ideas to Action	29
V. Conclusion	31
Acknowledgements	33
Appendices	37
Endnotes	59

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 12, 2014, The Chicago Community Trust convened *On the Table 2014*, an initiative that engaged thousands from across the Chicago region in mealtime conversations in order to generate bold new ideas about the future of the region and help to build and strengthen the bonds that are the pillars of community across the region's neighborhoods, municipalities, and counties. These conversations were intended to provide a platform for partnering with and inspiring participants, organizations, and institutions in the region to take action to improve quality of life and to build a more sustainable future for the Chicago region. Findings from these conversations will influence the Trust's strategic planning process and help the Trust serve the Chicago area by providing an opportunity to listen to and connect with residents.

The Trust invited the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) to assess the overall impact of the *On the Table* initiative. This report summarizes the *On the Table* conversations based on a wide variety of data collected by or made available to IPCE and addresses three major questions IPCE posed to understand the impact of the initiative: who participated, what was discussed, and how were participants impacted by the conversations?

WHO PARTICIPATED?

On the Table hosts held 1,100 mealtime conversations with an estimated 11,500 individual participants, according to the Trust. Outreach and marketing efforts included a mix of mass media, social media, networking, and direct outreach. The Trust's marketing and outreach effort was tremendously successful, reverberating across networks and leading to, as Trust President and CEO Terry Mazany put it, the initiative process going "viral," with individuals hearing about *On the Table* through networks at one or two levels removed from the initial outreach or contact. In an effort to make conversations as open and accessible as possible, the Trust prioritized maximizing participation over formal enrollment via provision of name and e-mail address—a trade-off that resulted in a high degree of participation across the Chicago region and beyond.

The analysis and findings provided in this report are primarily based on two sets of data: 6,391 registered

participants (**registrants**) and 2,083 individuals who completed an online survey (**respondents**). While the data constitute a large, non-random sample of total participants, conclusions cannot be scientifically generalized beyond the respondent group. Even with that caveat, the data and analysis provide useful insight into the opinions of a large number of engaged individuals with regard to improving the quality of life and building community in the Chicago region.

The following is a quick summary of demographic information about *On the Table 2014* registrants:

- Registrants by gender were 65.1% female, 33.7% male, and 1.2% who identified as transgender, androgynous, trans-queer, or other.
- The median age of all registrants was 45.0 years old. The age distribution of registrants in the seven-county region is as follows: 3.0% were ages 18–24; 22.3% ages 25–34; 23.4% ages 35–44; 22.8% ages 45–54; 18.1% ages 55–64; 10.5% ages 65 and above.
- Registrants in the seven-county region by race/ethnicity were whites, 57.4%; African Americans, 22.9%; Latinos, 9.5%; and Asians, 2.9%.
- About three-quarters (72.2%) of registrants were Chicago residents, while 27.8% were from communities outside of Chicago. At the county level, the breakdown of registrants is as follows: Cook County (87.7%), Lake (3.6%), DuPage (2.7%), Will (2.2%), McHenry (1.8%), and Kane (.8%).
- There was broad participation from the Chicago region and elsewhere in Illinois. Registrants reside in 157 different cities, villages, and towns in the Chicago region. The vast majority of suburbs had fewer than 10 registrants each, but there was strong participation from the towns of Evanston, Oak Park, Waukegan, and Highland Park.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

A survey e-mailed to registrants the day after the conversations yielded a high response rate of 31.6% and revealed a rich set of data detailing respondents' *On the Table* participation. This data included their motivation for participating; the quality and tone of the conversation; the issues and ideas they and others discussed; and the impact, if any, the conversations had on respondents.

Understanding what motivated respondents to participate in an *On the Table* conversation provided important context for analyzing the themes discussed. Data indicate that respondents' motivation for participating was rooted in a desire to share thoughts and take action. Most were motivated by an interest in working to bring about change, either individually (80.5%) or by working with others (74.7%). Additionally, over half (55.7%) of respondents indicated they were at least partially motivated by a concern about a specific issue or challenge, and over one-third (36.5%) of respondents came with a specific idea they wanted to share. These motivations also emerge in the analysis of the common themes discussed, as reported by survey respondents.

Respondents indicated that *On the Table* conversations were intimate and positive in tone. A typical conversation (median) had 10 participants, although some tables had much larger numbers (up to 20). When asked directly about the tone of the conversation, 70.9% of respondents indicated that the conversation was positive in tone; only 2.5% indicated that their conversation was negative in tone.

The research team reviewed over 12,000 responses about issues and ideas discussed as well as plans for action. The analysis of the full set of responses resulted in the identification of 25 “big” themes. These themes cover a wide range of subjects, from health to housing, transportation to technology, community development to corporate social responsibility.

The most common theme by far was education, with over half of respondents (54.9%) reporting it as a component of their conversations. Community engagement, equity and social inclusion, and collaboration similarly emerged as high-priority themes. While researchers expected education to be widely discussed given its ongoing presence in city-wide debates over school closings and reform, the three additional themes demonstrate that, among respondents, inclusivity and activities promoting such are necessary components in thinking strategically about how to best move Chicago forward.

Social media was an integral component of *On the Table*, connecting thousands more to the initiative than would have otherwise been possible. From the beginning planning stages, the Trust sought to add an online dimension to extend the conversation beyond the one-day initiative and encourage discussion with a much wider audience in the months

leading up to, on the day of, and several weeks following May 12. To capture the online discussion around *On the Table*—conversations about the conversation—use of the hashtag #OntheTable2014 helped to not only raise awareness, but also provide a space for participants to share issues and ideas they were most excited to discuss.

Online conversations via social media began prior to May 12, reaching a total of 2,543 mentions spanning February 19 – May 11, 2014. As expected, conversations peaked on May 12 with 5,169 mentions—the highest frequency during the campaign. Discussion on social media continued in the weeks following the initiative, with 865 mentions from May 13 until June 5. The bulk of the mentions came from Twitter (97.8%), although there were occasional posts from Facebook, blogs, and the mainstream news. Social connections drove engagement throughout the campaign, as messages were not just posted, but shared with and viewed by others. Out of the over 8,500 original mentions, 3,718 were retweeted.

HOW DID CONVERSATIONS IMPACT PARTICIPANTS?

There are several important observations that can be made about the nature of the immediate and short-run impact on participants. Respondents indicated they improved their understanding of issues and made new connections with other participants. Through the survey, they also revealed a very positive outlook regarding the extent to which the conversations generated an actionable vision for change and the extent to which they have a positive sense of their own ability to influence that change. Finally, respondents said that they would participate in some civic engagement activities at a higher rate following *On the Table* conversations.

The impact of the conversations on the level of understanding issues was very clear, as 80.4% of the survey respondents indicated some level of improved understanding of community and city issues, and 17.9% indicated their understanding of community issues to be “much better” following the conversations. There was also a notable impact on understanding with regard to regional issues, with about two-thirds (66.8%) indicating an improved understanding of issues affecting the region.

On the Table was very successful in bringing unconnected people together into the same space for conversation. A wide majority (83.3%) of respondents

indicated they made connections with attendees they did not already know. This observation is interesting given that the most common ways for respondents to have heard about the initiative was through an invitation from a colleague or friend. If individuals are being invited by people they know, but also making connections with new people, then it is likely that separate, previously unconnected networks were brought together through the conversations.

Beyond making new connections, individuals were planning concrete action steps, specifying intent to follow up with the new connections after the conversation in ways that indicate they might be collaborating to take action on an issue in the future. More than half of respondents (56.8%) indicated they exchanged contact information with one or more attendees. In addition, more than one-third of respondents (35.1%) reported that they had made plans with one or more attendees to address an issue or action in the future. These responses signal a strong possibility that *On the Table* may have sparked new collaborations among individuals and small groups, particularly with taking action on local issues. Social media will likely play a key role in keeping these new connections active, with 31.9% of respondents indicating they connected with someone new on social media either during or after the conversations.

Intended actions generated by conversations were primarily focused on local community engagement. Actions related to education were also common, as were actions promoting collaboration and actions around government-related issues.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the following are key observations about the impact of the conversations:

1. ***On the Table* successfully brought together previously connected and unconnected individuals from across the region to engage in rich conversations about how to move the region forward.** Respondents were primarily invited to attend by colleagues, although many took part because they enjoy conversation. Most importantly, they are motivated to help create positive change with others—a result that also emerged as a common conversation theme.
2. **Respondents are interested in a wide range of issues, but education, community engagement,**

equity and social inclusion, and collaboration were the most common themes of the discussions. The fact that the second-most discussed theme was community engagement, combined with the apparent desire expressed by survey respondents to connect with others in taking action, is an opportunity for the Trust, community organizations, and other institutions to respond by creating the space for ongoing conversations on any of the 25 major themes that emerged from the *On the Table* discussions.

3. **The conversations revealed a breadth of interest and a depth of knowledge on issues discussed by respondents.** Respondents reported they had increased each other's knowledge of those issues. They also indicated that the conversations generated a vision for action and, relatedly, signified that they viewed their own potential to influence change very highly.
4. **Respondents indicated an interest in working with others to address community-level issues.** Some made specific plans to connect with others during or after the conversation, and some expressed commitments to participate in specific civic engagement activities in the future. The theme of collaboration emerged in discussions with regard to how respondents felt issues are best addressed, indicating that they would like to see community needs and issues addressed with strategies that build partnerships and share resources across sectors, institutions, groups, and individuals. Collaboration, in this sense, was largely put forth as an idea for moving forward.

Already the Trust is moving forward in building action out of the conversations. Six collaboratories featuring ideas generated during *On the Table* are planned for October 2014. Through a partnership with Chicago Ideas Week and with the continued support of the Trust, the working groups will refine the ideas into sustainable plans, which they will then pitch to a panel of investors and influencers in April 2015 in hopes of securing financial support for implementation.

Ultimately, *On the Table* and this research have connected the Trust to a group of highly motivated and engaged citizens in the Chicago region. Respondents understand how issues and problems relate to each other in ways political, civic, and institutional leaders may not expect, and the value of that understanding should not be underestimated. These

results reflect the potential power of such conversations, which is truly the potential of “crowdsourcing” the old-fashion way—bringing small groups of people together face-to-face to discuss a problem or idea. Word about *On the Table* has spread to areas outside the region too, with leaders in cities such as Toronto recognizing the potential of large-scale public dialogue and expressing interest in modeling the *On the Table* initiative for their own communities.

The Trust is already taking steps to grow promising ideas generated through *On the Table*. Now, residents in the Chicago region must work together with the Trust, with other institutions at all levels, and with one another to continue these conversations, harness the ideas that emerge, and direct their collective efforts to address the challenges of the day and work to make a more just and equitable region for all residents.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Chicago Community Trust, founded in 1915, is one of the oldest and largest of more than 700 community foundations, which together serve more than 86% of the United States. The Trust's mission, as an endowed community foundation, is to lead and inspire philanthropic efforts that measurably improve the quality of life and the prosperity of the entire Chicago metropolitan area. To prepare for its 99th anniversary, the Trust launched what it described as the most imaginative public square to manifest on one day—*On The Table 2014*, a plan to engage thousands from across the Chicago region in mealtime conversations.

On the Table was the largest public-facing initiative in the history of the Trust. Through the initiative, the Trust sought to engage the region in dialogue that would generate bold new ideas about the future of the region and help to build and strengthen the bonds that are the pillars of community across the region's neighborhoods, municipalities, and counties. These conversations were intended to provide a platform for inspiring participants, organizations, and institutions to take action to improve quality of life and to build a more sustainable future for the Chicago region. Summary findings from these conversations will feed into the Trust's long-term planning process and help the Trust renew its commitment to serving the area by engaging in an ongoing conversation with its residents.

The Trust invited the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) to assess the overall impact of the *On the Table* initiative. This report summarizes the impact of the *On the Table* conversations based on a wide variety of data collected by or made available to IPCE. The sources of data include an online survey (2,083 surveys), data from a web-based form that allowed participants to share ideas (71 responses), a collection of social media posts related to the initiative (8,577 posts), and the *On the Table* participant registration database (6,391 registrants). Interviews were also conducted but are not included in the full data set. Quotes from the interviews are incorporated throughout the report where those quotes serve to further illustrate or support an observation drawn from the data.

This report addresses three major questions posed by IPCE to understand the overall impact of the Trust-led initiative: who participated, what was discussed, and how were participants impacted by the conversations? Accordingly, the report is divided into five sections, based on these questions: (I) Introduction, (II) Who Participated?, (III) What Was Discussed?, (IV) How Did Conversations Impact Participants?, and (V) Conclusion. Collectively, the data and analysis provided here explore the ideas, concerns, and outlook of residents of the Chicago region who participated in an *On the Table* conversation.

II. WHO PARTICIPATED?

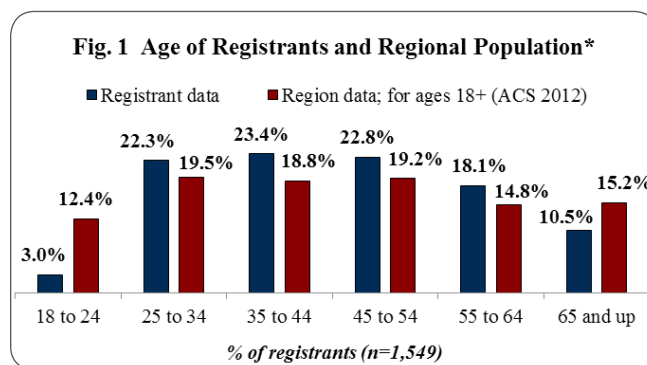
On May 12, 2014, *On the Table* hosts held 1,100 mealtime conversations with an estimated 11,500 individual participants, according to the Trust. Outreach and marketing efforts for the Trust-led initiative began in February 2014 and ran through May 2014. These marketing efforts included a mix of mass media, social media, networking, and direct outreach. The Trust's marketing and outreach strategy was tremendously successful, reverberating across networks and leading to, as Trust President and CEO Terry Mazany put it, the campaign going "viral,"¹ with individuals hearing about *On the Table* through networks at one or two levels removed from the initial outreach or contact. In an effort to make conversations as open and accessible as possible, the Trust prioritized maximizing participation over formal enrollment via provision of name and e-mail address—a trade-off that resulted in a high degree of participation across the Chicago region and beyond.

One key implication of this trade-off between access and registration leads to an important caveat regarding the data and interpretations of its analysis. The analysis and findings in this report are based on nearly 6,391 registered participants (**registrants**) and 2,083 individuals who completed an online survey (**respondents**). While the data constitute a large, non-random sample of total participants, conclusions cannot be scientifically generalized beyond the respondent group. Despite that caveat, the data and analysis in this report provide useful insight into the opinions of a large number of engaged individuals likely eager to share ideas about improving the quality of life and building community in the Chicago region.

Participants came together in private residences, backyards, local restaurants, schools, community centers, places of worship, libraries, offices, and retail establishments. Individuals and groups alike took on hosting responsibilities, with a number of prominent organizations, educational institutions, government offices, faith-based groups, and media circles accommodating multiple tables of diverse people.² The Trust in particular made a conscious and systematic effort to reach out to minority populations, including the Latino community. The Trust also purposefully engaged underserved groups in the day's proceedings and hosted specific events for the homeless, juvenile detainees, prisoners, and youth.

A. REGISTRANTS BY AGE

The average age of *On the Table* registrants was 45.8 years old, and the median age was 45.0. Registrants were older than the median age of just under 36 for the population of the seven-county region (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties), according to 2012 ACS population estimates.³ Figure 1 shows the age distribution of registrants compared to the age distribution of Chicago-area residents. The registrant age mix is overrepresented across all age brackets from 25 to 64 years old; however, the percentage of senior registrants was lower compared to the regional population. Although youth participated in school-based *On the Table* discussions, minors were neither registrants in individual mealtime conversations nor targets of the online survey.

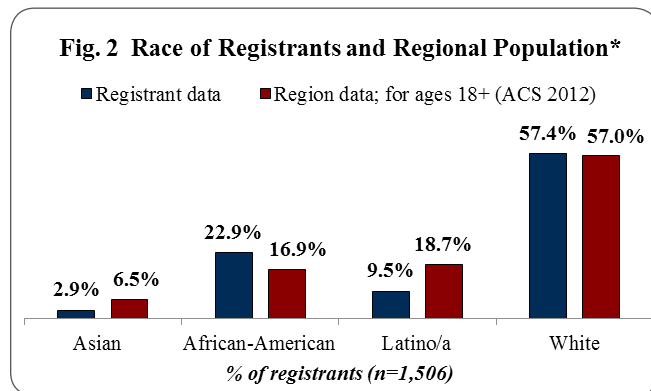


Note: This graph includes registrants from the seven-county Chicago region (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties).

B. REGISTRANTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND GENDER

African-American registrants comprised 22.9% of the total mix, while whites made up 57.4%. Latinos were 9.5%, and Asians were 2.9% of registrants. As compared to their populations in the seven-county region, African-Americans participated at higher rates than their share of the overall regional population (16.9%), while whites participated at almost equal proportion (57.0%) based on ACS regional population data.⁴ However, the percentages of Latino and Asian registrants were lower compared to the regional population (18.7% and 6.5%, respectively).

Figure 2 shows the racial mix of registrants relative to their share of the population in the seven-county region.



Note: This graph includes registrants from the seven-county Chicago region (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties). Groups not included in this graph are American Indian/Alaska (0.2%), multiracial (1.5%), other (1.9%), Pacific Islander (0.1%), and prefer not to answer (3.6%).

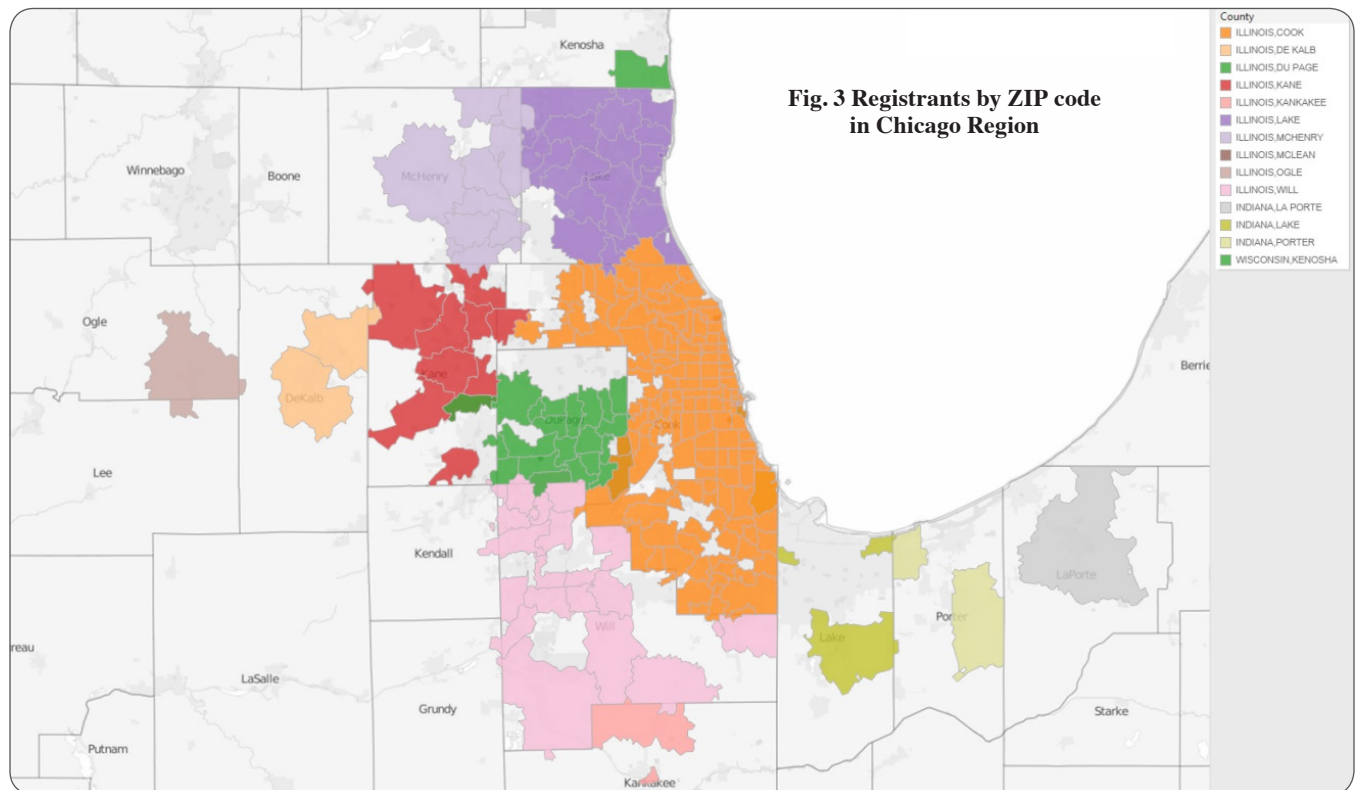
The balance of registrants was tilted towards women, with 65.1% being female and 33.7% male. Just over 1% identified as other including respondents who identified as transgender, androgynous, or trans-queer.

C. RESIDENCY OF REGISTRANTS

The vast majority of registrants were City of Chicago residents. Just under three-fourths (72.2%) were from the city, while 27.8% were from communities outside of Chicago. At the county level, the breakdown of registrants is as follows: Cook (87.7%), Lake (3.6%), DuPage (2.7%), Will (2.2%), McHenry (1.8%), and Kane (0.8%).

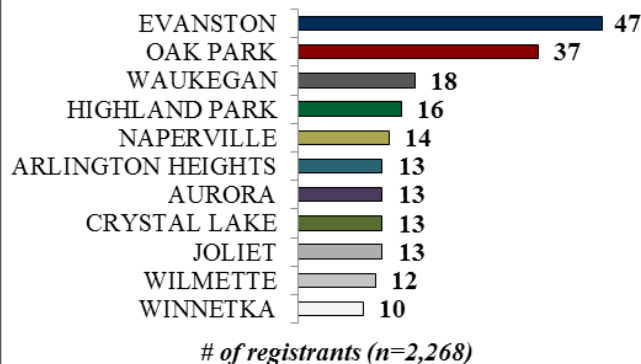
A number of other Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin counties as well as a handful of counties in other states outside of the region, including states as far away as Florida, Texas, and South Carolina, had less than five registrants each. Figure 3 shows the distribution of registrants by ZIP code across the region and shows the near complete ZIP code coverage within Cook and Lake County, Illinois. McHenry, Kane, DuPage, and Will counties also have good ZIP code coverage within their boundaries even though many of the ZIP codes contain relatively few registrants.

There was broad participation from Chicago suburbs. Registrants reside in 157 different cities, villages, and towns in the region other than Chicago. The vast majority of suburbs had fewer than 10 registrants each. Figure 4 shows the Chicago suburbs with 10 or more registrants. As may be expected, these



suburbs include several of the most populous cities in the state, including Aurora, Joliet, Naperville, and Waukegan. The high levels of participation from communities with relatively small populations such as Evanston, Oak Park, Waukegan, and Highland Park, is notable.

Fig. 4 Chicago Suburbs with 10 or more registrants



Within Chicago, data about registrants is available by both ZIP code and by Chicago community area. Figure 5⁵ shows the distribution of registrants by ZIP code for Cook County, reflecting in closer detail the near complete coverage of registrants from ZIP codes across the county.

Similarly, Figure 6 shows the distribution of registrants across the 77 Chicago community areas within the city of Chicago, showing coverage across community areas. The highest concentrations of registrants were in the Loop and neighboring community areas, as well as Near North and other lakefront community areas. Most community areas are smaller than ZIP codes, which explains the slightly different coverages between the ZIP code and community area maps.

Fig. 5 Distribution of Registrants by ZIP code for Cook County

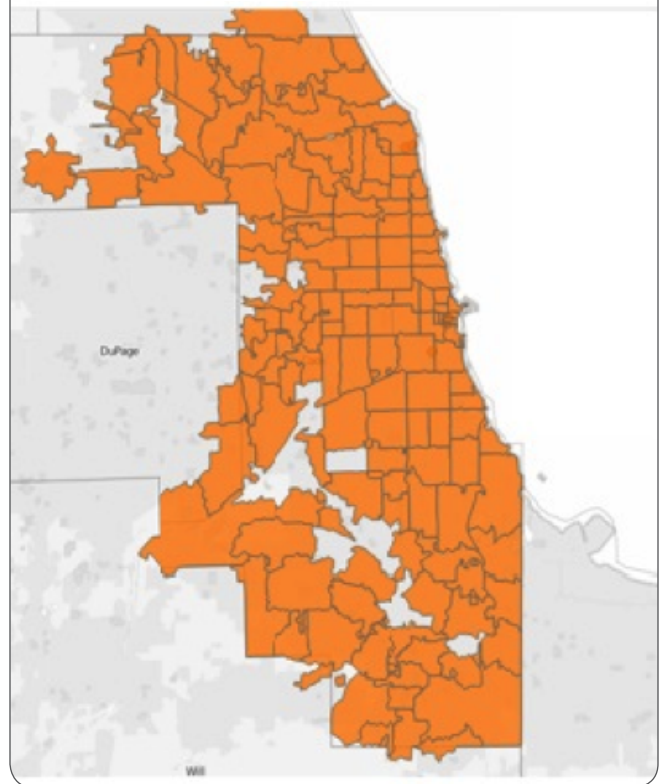
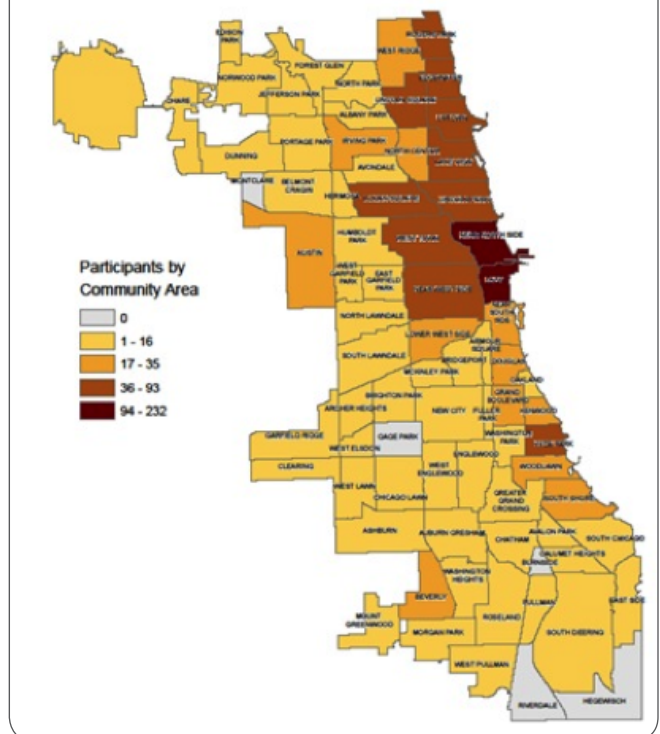


Fig. 6 Distribution of Registrants by Chicago Community Area



III. WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

Following *On the Table*, a link for an online survey⁶ was e-mailed to 6,117 people—the total number of e-mail addresses in the registrant database made available to IPCE. Excitement around the initiative showed itself in the high response rate to e-mailed survey requests, with 31.6% of e-mail recipients participating in the survey. Additionally, the survey link was posted on the *On the Table* website to reach participants who did not register to participate in a conversation and for whom researchers did not have an e-mail. Both survey links together yielded a total of 2,083 responses⁷ and revealed a rich set of data detailing respondents' *On the Table* participation. This data included their motivation for participating and how they participated; the quality and tone of the conversation; the issues and ideas they and others discussed; and the impact, if any, the conversations had on respondents.

The heart of this report is an analysis of what was discussed—primarily issues raised and ideas shared—across *On the Table* conversations, as reported in the survey. In addition to summarizing the elements of the survey that illuminate conversation participation and experience (including who was at the table, why they were there, and the nature of the conversations), this

section provides an overview of the emergent themes from May 12 and specifically highlights a range of the most-discussed topics that would be useful for the region in setting priorities moving forward.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON SURVEY RESPONDENTS

The data presented in Figures 7 through 10 provide demographic information on the survey respondents. Each table provides a breakdown by sex, age, race, and county for the total number of respondents (n) for whom we have the corresponding information. The majority of respondents for whom we have demographic data are white (60.9%), female (64.6%), and from Cook County (87.6%). The median age of the available respondent data is 46, with half of respondents in between the ages of 35 and 58.

Our ability to compare groups and explore trends based on group breakdowns, such as age, gender, or race, is limited because respondents were not selected at random and we do not have demographic information for all respondents.⁸ Accordingly, the following analysis provides detailed exploration of what was discussed by the *full* group of respondents.

Fig. 7 Respondent Sex

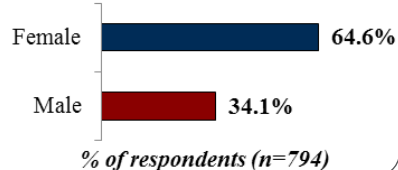


Fig. 8 Respondent Age

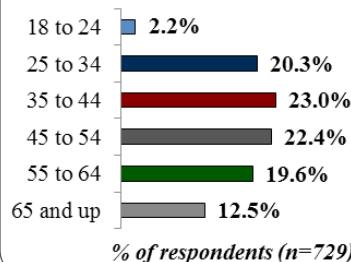


Fig. 9 Respondent Race

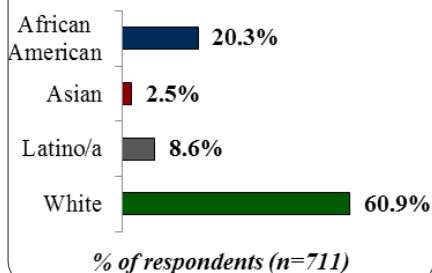
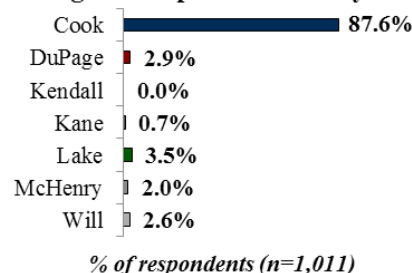


Fig. 10 Respondent County



[People] still [have] that overwhelming sense of civic pride and love for this city, and they really enjoy just the opportunity to be in conversation. —INTERVIEWEE

B. MOTIVATION AND PARTICIPATION

The way in which respondents heard about the *On the Table* initiative can be revealing about their motivation for participating. About two-thirds (66.9%) of respondents received invitations to participate, and over half (51.8%) of those invited were invited by colleagues. The workplace was an important source of recruitment, which may indicate that future *On the Table* dialogues or other similar initiatives would benefit from targeting the workplace as one focus of outreach for engagement.

Personal networks played an important role as well, as nearly one-third (31.4%) of registrants were invited by friends. About one-quarter (26.1%) indicated they were invited by other sources, including the Trust, non-specific community organizations, and a handful by elected officials. Some heard about *On the Table* through word of mouth (26.8%). Others reported hearing about it through media sources, such as newspapers and radio. Figures 11 and 12 show the distribution of sources of invitation to the conversations.

Data indicate that respondents' motivation for participating was rooted in a desire to share thoughts and take action. Most were motivated by an interest in working to bring about change, either individually (80.5%) or by working with others (74.7%). This overwhelming motivation to work collaboratively is particularly noteworthy, as summary data analysis discussed later in this report reveals collaboration to be a common theme across conversations. Additionally, over half (55.8%) of respondents indicated they were at least partially motivated by a concern about a specific issue or challenge, and over one-third (36.5%) of respondents came with a specific idea they wanted to share. "Other" respondents participated as part of a work commitment (17.6% of "other"), to network and meet new people (12.7% of "other"), because they were invited (8.6% of "other"), and to represent their community (5.0% of "other").

Fig. 11 How did you hear about the *On the Table* conversations?

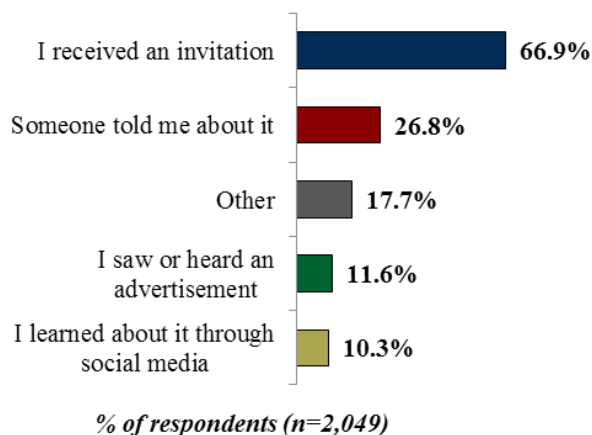
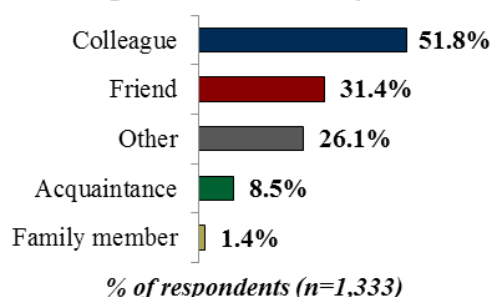


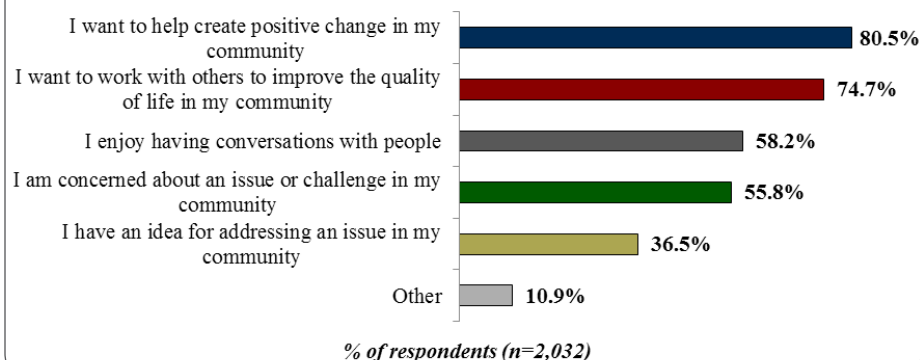
Fig. 12 Who invited you?



C. QUALITY AND TONE OF CONVERSATIONS

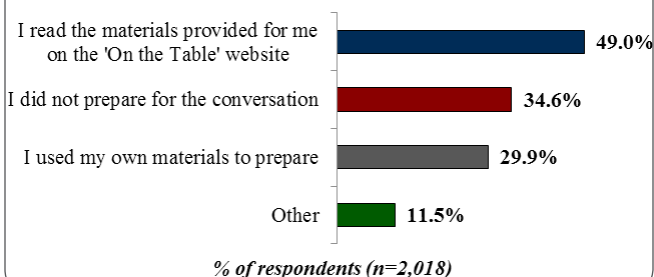
In general, *On the Table* conversations were reported to be intimate and positive in tone. A typical conversation (median) had 10 participants. However, there were some tables attended by much larger numbers (up to 20). The median table accommodating 10 participants is one simple indicator of the potential quality of the conversations, as tables with fewer people provide more time and opportunity for all to participate actively in the discussion. When asked directly about the tone of the conversation, 70.9% of respondents indicated that the conversation was positive in tone. Only 2.5% indicated that their conversation was negative in tone.

Fig. 13 Why did you choose to participate in an *On the Table* conversation?



Respondents also reported being actively engaged in the conversations. A wide majority indicated that they shared an idea (85.6%) or raised an issue of concern (80.0%) during the conversation, and 88.2% indicated they commented on the ideas or concerns raised by others. Analysis of the specific ideas or concerns raised in the conversations is provided in the following “Common Themes” section.

Fig. 14 How did you prepare to participate in the conversation?



Preparation for the conversation and the extent to which individuals actively contributed to the dialogue are also good indicators of the quality of the conversations. To complement the conversations on May 12 and spark ideas ahead of time, staff from the Trust and others compiled content for hosts, guests, and *On the Table* website visitors to read and share each week. The resources represented a range of perspectives on a number of topics related to five broad themes: global, divided, sustainable, working, and innovative communities. These weekly reads were meant to provide new insights into regional issues, help stimulate conversations in advance, and add weight to discussion topics. About one-third (34.6%) of the respondents indicated they did not prepare for the conversation. Among those who did prepare, nearly half (49.0%) read materials available on the *On the Table* website, 29.9% prepared using their own materials, and 11.5% prepared using other information. Of those responding “other,” many used materials provided by the host (24.6% of “other”), thought about their own experiences (22.8% of “other”), and spoke with others before the conversation (11.6% of “other”).⁹

D. COMMON THEMES DISCUSSED

1. Design and Analysis of Open Response Survey Questions

Survey respondents had multiple opportunities to elaborate on their responses to close-ended questions and provide short-answer descriptions illuminating themes discussed in their conversations and ensuing plans for action.¹⁰ From these open-ended prompts, the research team gathered data surrounding important conversation markers, including issue dissection and idea generation, as well as data indicative of impact on individuals, such as actionable intent. Implementing this framework of “issues to ideas to action” within the survey design, researchers sought to capture the ways in which Chicago-area residents are thinking about the future of the region and their ideas for how best to move communities forward.

While the open-response portion of the survey focused largely on determining the quality, quantity, and nature of the ideas raised—a feature purposefully aligned with a motivation of the *On the Table* initiative to “spark new ideas”—questions inquiring after issues and action provided an opportunity for researchers to also contextualize respondents’ shared ideas and learn their capacity for translating those ideas into action. Before providing an analysis of the conversations within this three-pronged structure,¹¹ however, it is necessary to first identify the themes that emerged overall in the qualitative survey responses in order to get a sense of what was widely discussed in the conversations.

With 10 open-response survey fields and 2,083 total survey respondents, more than 12,000 responses were reviewed and analyzed. Using sophisticated qualitative data analysis software¹² and successive,

iterative reviews of the data, the research team was able to sort out themes from a very wide-ranging set of responses. Responses for each of the 10 variables were tagged with two layers of codes: first-level codes identified the text's relationship to a large, thematic category (i.e. transportation, government, arts and culture) and second-level codes assigned a more detailed descriptor; in this analysis, first-level codes are referred to as **themes**, and second-level codes are referred to as **topics**. While we were deliberate and systematic in our use and organization of codes as well as our assignment of responses to the codes, we recognize that this portion of the analysis is drawn from interpretation, which means that others may apply a different interpretation than the categorical system used here.

2. Conversation Themes

According to survey results, 25 “big” themes emerged from the *On the Table* conversations. These themes cover a range of subjects, from health to housing, transportation to technology, and community development to corporate social responsibility. Many themes reflect issues with which the region currently grapples, such as public safety and crime, while others suggest values important to respondents, including arts and culture as well as equity and

social inclusion. One of the top themes in particular even demonstrates respondents' propensities toward participatory action via community engagement.

Figure 15 displays all 25 themes according to the percentage of respondents who mentioned issues, ideas, and/or other comments relevant to these themes in their survey responses.¹³ As illustrated, education was discussed with the greatest frequency, with over half of respondents (54.9%) reporting it as a component of their conversations; community engagement, equity and social inclusion, and collaboration similarly emerged as high-priority themes. While researchers expected education to be widely discussed given its ongoing presence in city-wide debates over school closings and reform,¹⁴ the visible esteem for the subsequent three themes demonstrates that, among respondents, inclusivity and activities promoting such are necessary components in thinking strategically about how to best move Chicago forward. Collectively, the nature of the top four themes are indicative of the direction conversations seemed most likely to take, with emphasis on both constructively identifying issues and developing ideas to address those concerns.

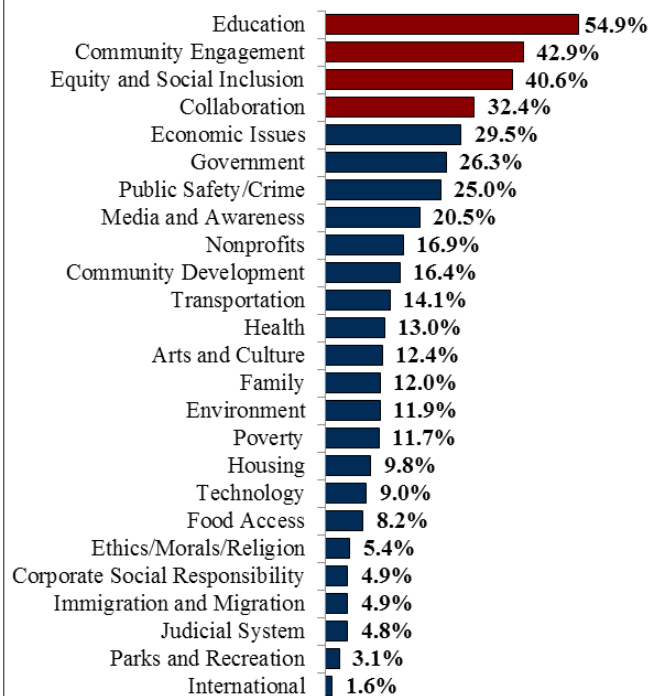
Given the scope of the conversation themes and the limitations of this report, it is not feasible to provide detailed information regarding all topics discussed. However, the high percentage of respondents who discussed topics around education, community engagement, equity and social inclusion, and collaboration necessitates further precision and detail regarding the characteristics of these conversation themes. The following sections provide an in-depth analysis of each of the top four themes in order to paint a fuller picture of what was extensively discussed on May 12.

Education

Education was widely reported as an element of *On the Table* conversations. Over half of survey respondents (54.9%) reported discussion around this theme, making it the most talked about subject on May 12 and affirming that education is a high-priority area for the region moving forward. Given education's prevailing status as an issue of concern within the region, it may come as little surprise that respondents used the *On the Table* initiative as an opportunity to explore problem areas and potential ideas derived from their own experiences.

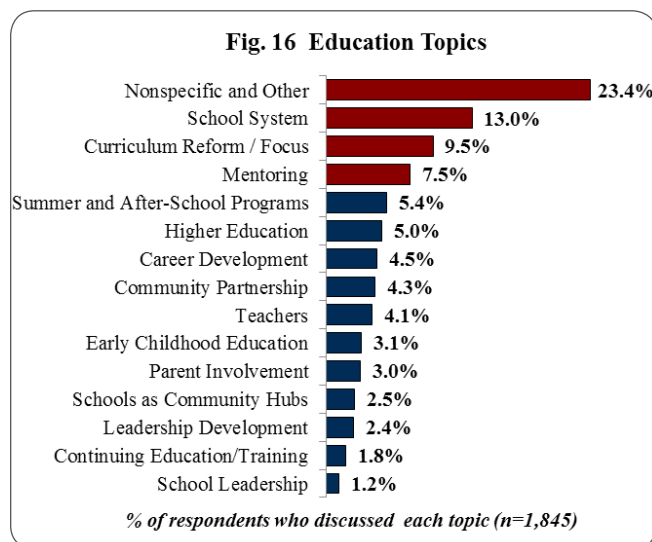
The breadth of survey responses referencing education resulted in a total of 15 distinct topics—the most

Fig. 15 Conversation Themes



% of respondents who discussed each theme (n=1,845)

of any conversation theme. With a range of reference this expansive, it's important to note that education as used within this analysis is a broadly conceived theme that refers not only to schools and children, but also to other areas of development and learning. Figure 16 shows the percentage of respondents who reported at least some discussion around each topic area. As the chart illustrates, almost a quarter of respondents (23.4%) made a generic reference to education,¹⁵ which means that not only was this the most frequent topic discussed within education, but was also the highest ranked topic across all 25 themes. Where respondents provided more detail than simply indicating education as a focus of their conversation, they tended to put forward a need for higher quality public schools. Many also contextualized education as a community issue and made note of the interactive relationship between the two; comments such as “good education needs a committed local community” and “education stabilizes community” reveal a perception that these are not disjointed entities and, in fact, can have a positive influence on improving the other.



In discussing education, respondents also widely referenced school systems, particularly within a dichotomy of neighborhood versus charter schools. Some framed the issue as a question of whether education is a public or private good, with the majority of respondents speaking in favor of improving neighborhood schools and more equitably investing in public education. “We need to salvage the concept of the neighborhood school in our urban district,” one respondent said. “We need to have open and frank conversation across income levels

about what equity in education means and what our vision of an equitable society looks like.”

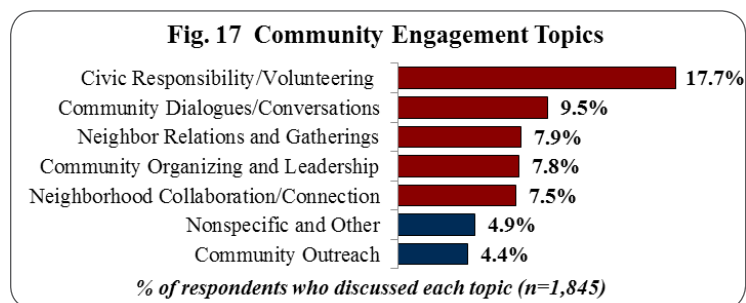
Curriculum reform was another education topic a portion of respondents reported exploring in their conversations. Of the numerous programs and curriculums¹⁶ respondents identified as lacking in schools and communities, arts education and restorative justice¹⁷ were largely seen as the most important areas to which access should be expanded. Both were described as having the potential to curb violence and improve the overall health of communities.

Community Engagement

Just under half of survey responses (42.9%) reported discussion around topics related to community engagement. This percentage is notable, as it reaffirms that the type of people most likely to participate in the *On the Table* initiative and complete a survey regarding their experience are those with a disposition toward engagement and thus likely to share ideas within conversations reflective of this nature. It may also signal a growing trend in the value of participating at the community level, often for the purpose of making connections and impacting local change.

Community engagement is a broad subject whose meaning is often debated among scholars and practitioners in the field. For this project, topics extracted from survey responses and assembled within community engagement nod toward a looser conceptualization of the theme that incorporates a range of activities and perspectives. Community engagement as defined here not only captures the role of the individual within his/her community, but also captures neighbor interactions and, on another level, the interplay and connections among neighborhoods/communities.

The majority of respondents who made reference to an activity or initiative related to community engage-



There [were] just so many people in the city of Chicago and in the metropolitan area who are doing really, really great work, whether it's in their community or starting foundations, you know, championing their own personal cause, and they're doing it because they believe in the cause or they want to make a difference, not for the notoriety. —INTERVIEWEE

ment did so around methods of getting involved in one's community, such as volunteering.¹⁸ In total, nearly one-fifth of respondents (17.7%) discussed ideas within this area of engagement, making it the second most talked about topic across all themes. Survey responses reveal that in many conversations, there was a general understanding of a necessity to become more involved in the community on an individual level—and encourage others to do so as well—in order to “create positive change” and “make a difference.”¹⁹ “When people participate in their block, neighborhood, or community,” one respondent remarked, “they become owners and have a stake in keeping up the community.” Some respondents revealed feeling “impressed” by others’ commitment to their communities, which for one respondent, “[g]ave me inspiration to start really making a difference in my community.” Many respondents proposed volunteering as a way to get involved in the community. Most responses focused on finding ways to encourage others to volunteer, such as through volunteer fairs or a “Craigslist for volunteering,” while a number of other respondents mentioned creating incentives for volunteers or instituting a “volunteer day.”

A number of respondents also reported discussing community dialogues and conversations as a fundamental way of bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to deliberate on important issues and explore ideas for how to move communities forward. “The more engaged the community is in dialogue,” one respondent remarked, “the better the chance we will eventually come up with plans to address critical issues.” Largely, discussion around this topic advocated for continued conversations. Some suggested that dialogues in general should be organized with greater frequency (“continue having conversations”), while others expressed a more specific desire to “continue the conversation” after May 12 with their tablemates and/or other members

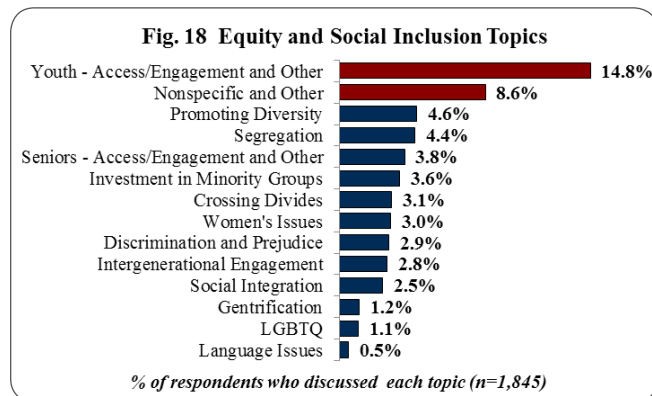
of the community. This insistence on holding more conversations is potentially indicative of the impact the *On the Table* initiative had on a subset of participants; it appears that the mealtime initiative modeled a process that a number of respondents found valuable and is one that could be replicated moving forward.

A smaller but still sizeable portion of respondents focused on community engagement specifically within and among neighborhoods. Some talked about community organizing and leadership at the grassroots level, particularly through the formation of block clubs, as a necessary precursor to local change. Similarly, some noted the importance of generating opportunities for more informal gatherings with neighbors—such as block parties, festivals, dinners, and conversations—as a way of cultivating community and building stronger ties. Others, however, considered ways to build “a more cohesive sense of community within the greater Chicago area” by collaborating at the neighborhood level and bridging connections among communities region-wide. Multiple respondents shared an idea for creating “sister neighborhoods” that is based on the international sister city model as a way to break out of “neighborhood entrenchment” and “come together to understand each others [*sic*] communities better.”

Equity and Social Inclusion

Similar to community engagement, a little less than half of survey respondents (40.6%) reported aspects of their conversations featuring topics related to equity and social inclusion. Purposefully broad in scope, this theme embraces a social justice perspective and encompasses a range of topics related to issues of access and equality for underserved minority groups. Given such wide applicability, it also intersects with other conversation themes, particu-

larly topics within education (school systems, mentoring, leadership development), economic issues (income/wealth inequality), and immigration, among others.



Responses thematized as equity and social inclusion circled around issues and strategies related to youth access²⁰ and engagement. Nearly fifteen percent (14.8%) of respondents spoke about young people, particularly in terms of increasing their capacity for engagement within their schools, communities, and the workforce.

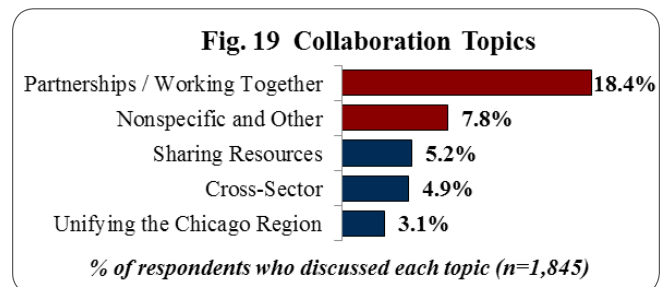
Overall, respondents indicated that youth need to be more involved, but did so cognizant of the role themselves and others (leaders, institutions) must play in helping youth gain access to opportunities: “youth need to have higher expectations of them[selves] when it comes to community leadership[,] but that adults need to provide opportunities for them to get involved.” Where respondents indicated providing and/or increasing programming for youth, they mentioned the following: summer job programs, youth mentoring programs, work-study programs for high school students, career-prep programs, leadership development programs, after-school programs, creative arts programs, and college-bound programs. While a number of these responses were framed as reactions to an evident or perceived lack within communities, overall, respondents tended to use constructive language pointed toward generating opportunities for youth.

Beyond youth access and engagement, respondents were most likely to mention an aspect of equity and social inclusion that, while not altogether specific, conveys a general sense of how they perceive inequality rooted within Chicago and the region at large. Many indicated an awareness of Chicago as a city of disparities, particularly as it plays out across income levels, neighborhoods, racial groups, and

perhaps realized most intensely, according to the survey, within the education system. “Everyone is concerned for the future of the city and wants to find productive ways to ensure the city’s future by addressing community disparities,” remarked one respondent. Another respondent similarly expressed, “It will be hard for us to come together as ‘one city’ until there are more resources devoted to making sure there is equal access across the city to transit, jobs, fresh food, high-quality schools, etc.”

Collaboration

Rounding out the top four *On the Table* conversation themes is collaboration, with nearly one-third of respondents (32.4%) reporting table discussion around topics related to forging partnerships, working together, sharing resources, and unifying the Chicago region. Collaboration is likely to have emerged as a common theme for the same reason that community engagement was discussed with such widespread frequency: typically, those most willing to participate in this type of interactive and dialogic activity as well as respond to a survey are often people who place value on the wisdom of the collective and seek out collaborative opportunities in order to advance their communities. As such, a general perspective mined from survey responses indicates that respondents would like to see community needs and issues addressed with a strategy that employs collaboration across sectors, institutions, groups, and individuals. Collaboration, in this sense, was largely put forth as an idea for moving forward.



Respondents who indicated collaboration as a theme of their conversation spoke about creating partnerships and working together; nearly one-fifth of respondents (18.4%) mentioned issues and ideas around this topic, making it the second most discussed topic across all conversation themes. While responses were largely constructive in their recommendations for increased collaboration, implicit in this suggestion is the identification of a region-wide issue of significance: namely, that there is a deep lack of proper coordination among institutional,

organizational, and governing entities. “How can we help organizations doing similar work—to [sic] do it together[?]” one respondent asked. For many, coalition-building and partnerships, primarily among community organizations,²¹ is key in order to begin to effectively address systematic issues within communities and create “greater impact”; first, however, an awareness of what other organizations are doing around the same issues is needed in order to open the landscape for connectivity and break out of the silo mindset, according to respondents.

Where respondents mentioned other topics around collaboration, they did so primarily in two capacities—both of which are captured in the “nonspecific and other” topic category. One, respondents called for the creation of networks and more opportunities for connecting with others on an individual level.²² Two, they spoke to the necessity for creating “a shared vision,” one that might be realized in “a city wide [sic] sustainable master plan” and/or a regional strategic plan in order to approach issues comprehensively and address them systematically.

Other Main Topics of Discussion

In addition to these top four conversation themes, more specific topics nested within other themes emerged as prevalent subjects that allow for a more comprehensive illustration of what respondents discussed on May 12.²³ These themes include: economic issues, public safety and crime, nonprofits, community development, and media and awareness.

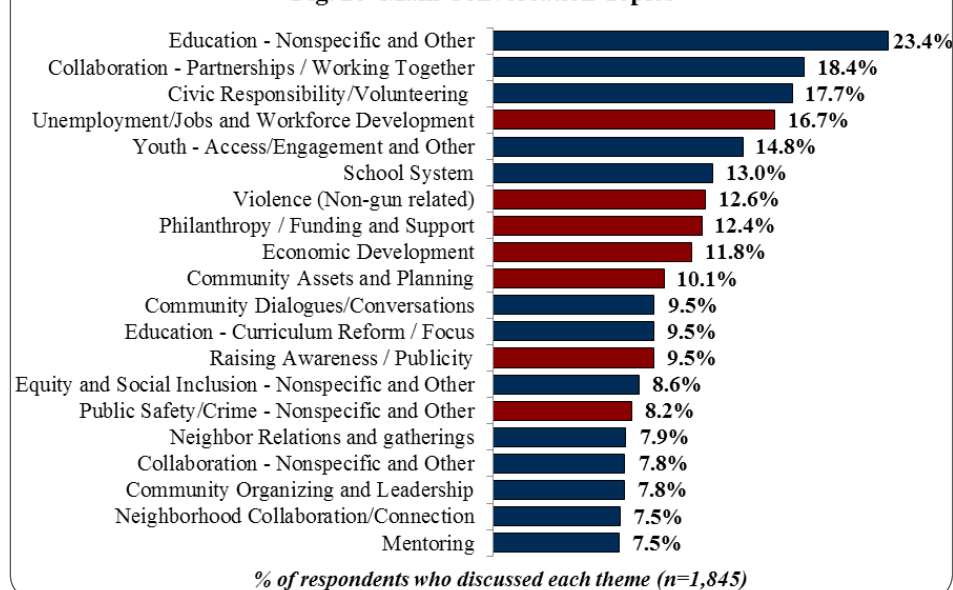
In conversations about the economy, nearly seven-teen percent (16.7%) of respondents discussed increasing job opportunities and expanding work-force development. Employment and education were largely talked about together, especially in advocating for more training around skill-specific jobs.²⁴ Correspondingly, economic development was also widely discussed, with many conversations focused on supporting small business growth and the positive impact such growth would have on neighborhoods and local communities.

Where respondents discussed issues and ideas around public safety and crime, they did so primarily in reference to violence within Chicago. Almost thirteen percent (12.6%) of respondents were part of conversations that explored causes and symptoms of violence and talked about how to “alleviate the culture of violence” across neighborhoods and the greater Chicago community. Additionally, many focused on developing youth programs as a strategy to reduce violence among young people. Beyond violence, survey responses further indicate a general concern for public safety (often mentioned as a key issue alongside education) and pointed to crime reduction²⁵ as a problem to be addressed. A number of people discussed sex trafficking in Chicago and how to effectively end this criminal procedure and rehabilitate its victims.

In thinking about how to address issues challenging communities, respondents considered two interre-

lated avenues of progress: external philanthropy and internal community development. Twelve percent of respondents (12.4%) mentioned discussing nonprofits and the role of philanthropy in providing institutional funding and support to improve communities. Generally, respondents reported wanting to see philanthropic funding distributed toward “programs that work.” Many specifically named the Trust as an organization that could implement a “needs assessment” across the region and “lead community-wide priority setting” in identifying where philan-

Fig. 20 Main Conversation Topics



thropic efforts should be directed. Overall, respondents largely expressed confidence in the potential for positive impact achieved by a “philanthropic community spirit.”

Ten percent of respondents recalled participating in conversations that focused on identifying community assets and using internal resources in planning for better communities. Responses overwhelmingly called for an enhanced use of neighborhood anchor sites (i.e. schools and libraries) as public gathering places and shared spaces that are safe and that serve to connect people. A large number of respondents suggested using closed neighborhood schools as community centers “to provide services and programs for everyone.” Along with developing communities to better serve its residents, nearly ten percent (9.5%) of respondents also discussed raising awareness and developing publicity campaigns to educate community members on the programs and resources that currently exist in their communities.

3. Issues and Ideas

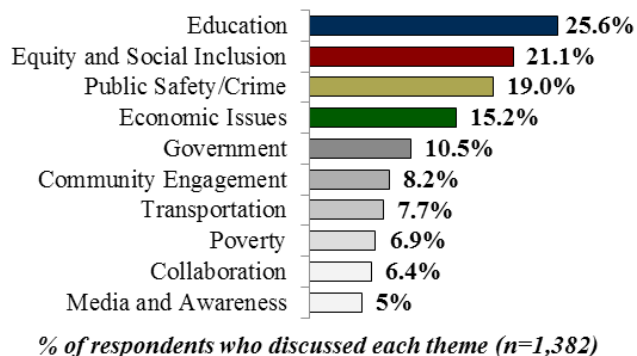
The next two sections explore separately the issues and ideas that were discussed during conversations. Each section provides a broad overview of the most commonly discussed themes and topics and also zooms in to provide more detail and description of the four most discussed issues and ideas.

Issues Discussed

According to survey results,²⁶ respondents who reported raising an issue of concern regarding their community, city, or region did so primarily around issues related to education, equity and social inclusion, public safety and crime, and the economy.²⁷

One quarter (25.6%) of respondents discussed issues related to education, most commonly about concerns for neighborhood schools and equitable access to high-quality public education. Other core issue topics include

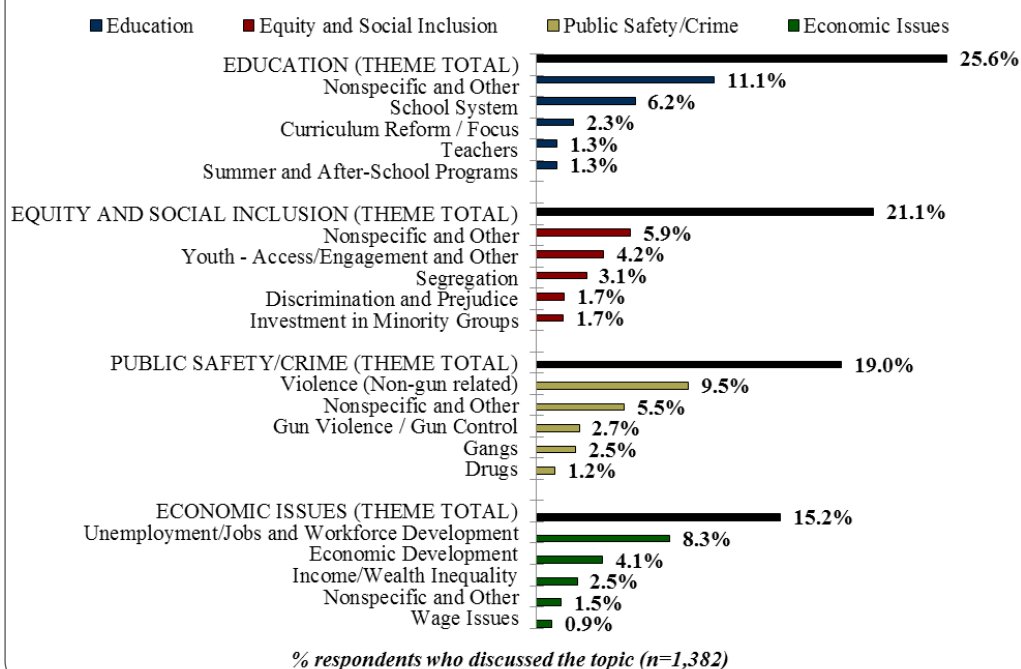
Fig. 21 Top ISSUES by Theme



school systems, education funding, the lack of art and health education in school curriculums, and access to youth programming.

Issues related to equity and social inclusion were also widely discussed and were generally concerned with the economic and educational inequalities affecting the Chicago region, as well as disparities in access to opportunities and resources. Other core topics in this issue theme include the lack of job opportunities and community involvement of youth, as well as segregation and “the issue of segregated neighborhoods... as a barrier to creating city-wide economic development that benefits the least advantaged, the most [sic].”

Fig. 22 ISSUES // Breakdown of Main Themes by Topic



Public safety and crime was the third most discussed issue theme, generally focused on violence and the lack of community safety and more specifically focused on youth violence, gun violence, and gangs.



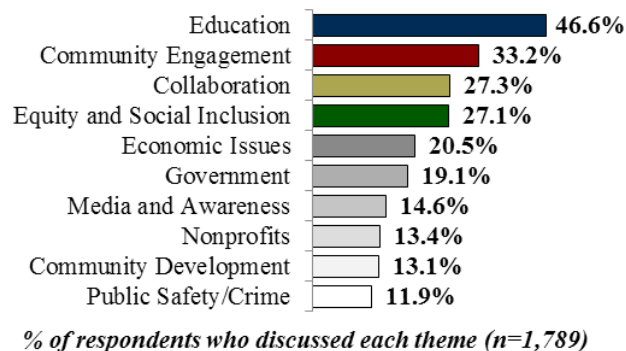
Economic issues were another top area of concern, with conversations most commonly centered on high unemployment and the “lack of job training and employment opportunities.” Other core topics concerned economic development and business (especially small businesses), youth unemployment, and income and wealth inequality. Poverty, high taxes, and state fiscal issues were other problems commonly discussed during conversations.

Ideas Discussed

Results for the top ideas discussed combine responses from two survey questions asking for “new ideas or perspectives” that contributed to the conversation and the ideas discussed that respondents feel “have the most potential to bring about change in [their] community or the community at large.”²⁸ Based on 5,569 responses from 1,789 respondents, the most commonly shared ideas have to do with education, community engagement, collaboration, and equity and social inclusion.²⁹

Nearly half (46.6%) of respondents shared at least one idea related to education, with most generally voicing the importance of improving school quality and placing a “re-emphasis on the importance of community

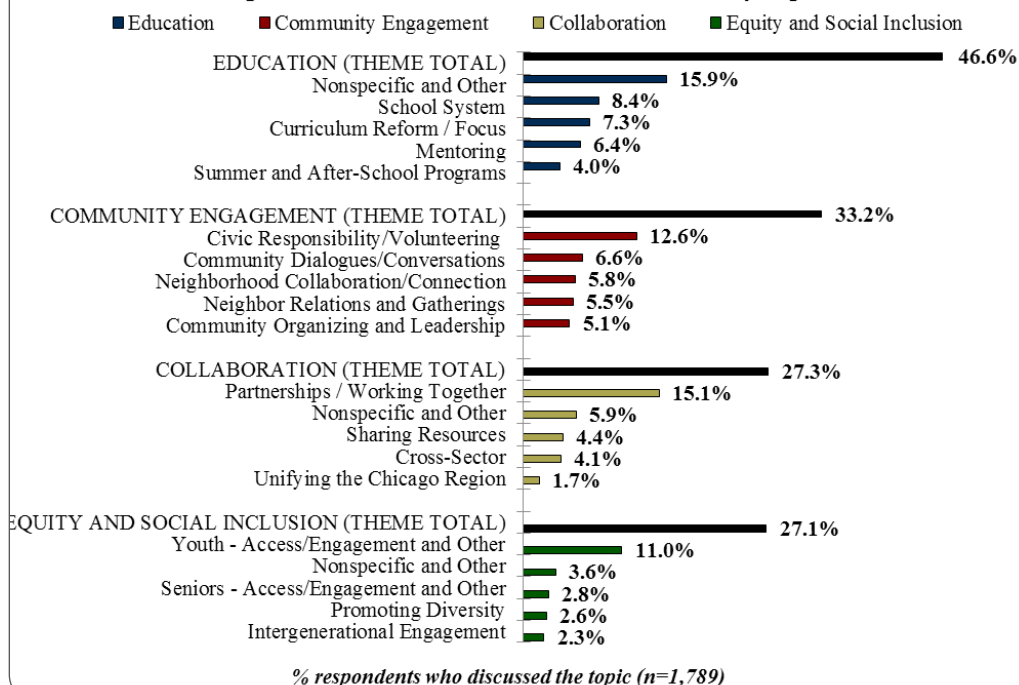
Fig. 24 Top IDEAS by Theme



institutions like neighborhood schools.” Specifically, ideas focused on incorporating more mentoring, arts, restorative justice, literacy, and leadership development programs in the school and community as well as providing better support for teachers and encouraging greater involvement of parents.

Community engagement was the next most discussed idea theme, with many feeling they “must take personal responsibility for improving their own community” and “be more active and involved in making positive community changes,” especially through volunteering and community service. Respondents also commonly shared ideas of having

Fig. 25 IDEAS // Breakdown of Main Themes by Topic

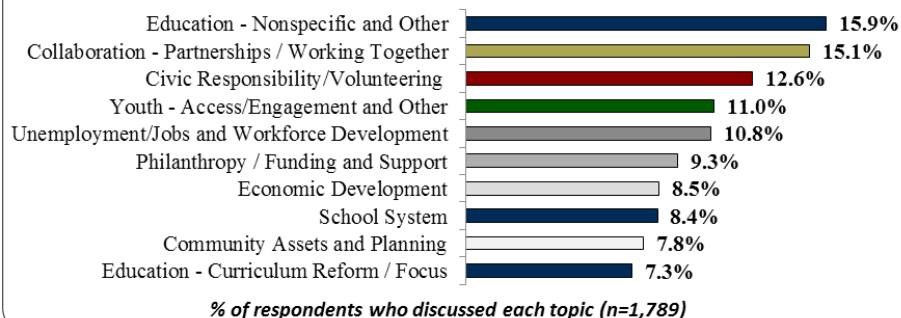


more community conversations, fostering collaboration and connection among Chicago's neighborhoods, and organizing more events like block parties that allow neighbors to get to know one another.

Ideas for collaboration were voiced by 27.3% of respondents, with a dominant focus on "increased collaboration amongst community groups" and "nonprofit collaboration for more community impact." Respondents also commonly put forth the ideas of building new community networks, coordinating planning efforts, connecting and sharing resources (for example, through a central database or website), and increasing public-private partnerships with a focus on partnering with schools and getting businesses more involved in community work.

The fourth main theme that emerged during discussions generating ideas dealt with equity and social inclusion, with more than a third of those conversations focusing on "investing in youth in the community—especially in the area of having them actively engaged in the local community" and providing more youth mentor and job opportunities. Respondents also shared ideas on improving senior service and support, engaging seniors in volunteer and inter-generational programs with youth, promoting diversity at work and in communities and neighborhoods, and creating initiatives focused on women's empowerment.

Fig. 26 Top IDEAS by Topic

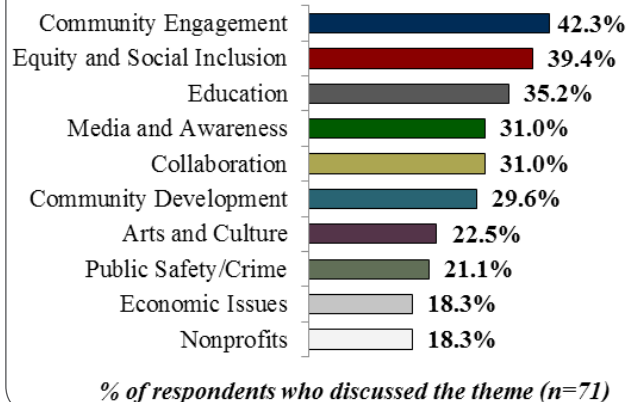


Other top ideas not included in the main four themes were creating job opportunities and job training, especially for young people; increasing the funding and support for community programs; developing local economies and "invigorating small business growth in neighborhoods"; creating more community centers, especially at schools or recently closed schools; and creating more public spaces.

4. Ideas Shared on the *On the Table* Website

Outside of the survey, participants also had the

Fig. 27 Top Shared Ideas by Theme



opportunity to share their ideas through the *On the Table* website. Figure 27 presents the thematic distribution of ideas shared by the 71 respondents. A total of 91 different topics were mentioned, and the most prominent were promoting diversity, such as the "support for dual-language and bicultural programs [that] will help foster greater sensitivity towards diversity"; community assets and planning, with one participant suggesting that "if a property has gone vacant more than two years the city will mandate its use as a half-way house or training center or cultural center until...the property can be returned to the market"; and the need for better branding and new narratives, for example that "Chicago needs another

[Ferris Bueller's Day Off]," something that showcases the city and generates interest in experiencing all that Chicago has to offer.

5. Big Ideas

On the Table was fundamentally designed as an idea-sharing initiative. Therefore, in addition to identifying the prominent themes and topics in more than 12,000 open

survey responses,³⁰ researchers sought to capture the innovative spirit of the table conversations through a careful selection of ideas on how to move the region forward. Nearly 700 ideas were initially flagged for further review, and all were systematically reviewed in order to identify the best. The research team scored the ideas based on the extent to which they were new, substantive, and bold or unique and provided the Trust with the results so it could take the next step in helping to advance some of the top proposals.

E. SOCIAL MEDIA: “THE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CONVERSATION”

Social media was an integral component of *On the Table*, connecting thousands more to the initiative than would have otherwise been possible. From the beginning planning stages, the Trust sought to add an online dimension to extend the conversation beyond the one-day initiative and encourage discussion with a much wider audience in the months leading up to, on the day of, and several weeks following May 12. To capture the online discussion around *On the Table*—conversations about the conversation—the Trust created the #OntheTable2014 social media campaign. Not only did the campaign serve as a powerful marketing tool to raise awareness and register participants, but it also allowed the conversation to take shape online, providing a space for participants to share issues and ideas they were most excited to discuss.

To assist with monitoring the social media campaign and tracking analytics, IPCE utilized social media management platforms Meltwater Buzz and Radian 6, along with a social media analyst from Gelb Consulting. The goals of this collaboration were to 1) measure the frequency, reach, amplification, engagement, and topics occurring in social media conversations related to *On the Table* and 2) understand how the initiative and key influencers encouraged engagement with the community before, during, and after the May 12 conversations. IPCE was thus able to assess the effectiveness of the social media tactics for promoting *On the Table* and to analyze social media conversations in order to better understand the influence and impact of these conversations on the Chicago region.

While the *On the Table* initiative saw thousands of people across the region engaged at the table in mealtime conversations, it also featured thousands

YOUTH AMBASSADOR EVENT

The Chicago Community Trust made a targeted effort to include a diverse range of youth voices—a demographic often left out of critical community conversations—in the *On the Table* initiative on May 12, 2014. The Trust, along with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), City Year, Chicago Cares, Mikva Challenge, and other organizations, hosted a dinner in the afternoon on the day of the initiative with about 200 “Student Ambassadors” from CPS high schools across the city. This event was intended to encourage students to weigh in on issues currently facing the region and to discuss ideas for the future of Chicago. Within small groups, students and City Year facilitators were assigned one of four topics around which to center their conversations: health, safety, education, and employment. Results from a live polling survey administered at the close of the event by the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement reveal two important trends about the youth respondents regarding their conversation experience.* One, student respondents were engaged in their conversations. Over half (66.5%) reported actively participating by raising issues, contributing new ideas, and commenting on what others said; additionally, over three-quarters (78.1%) indicated they had a better (somewhat to much better) understanding of the issues discussed at their tables as a direct result of their conversations. Two, student respondents emerged from their conversations largely confident in their potential as agents of change. Nearly sixty percent (57.1%) indicated that they view themselves as personally having a lot of influence in creating change in their communities, and forty percent (41.5%) reported that they are very likely to take action around an aspect of their conversations and already have specific actions in mind. Together, these two trends affirm that youth are a critical group not to be overlooked when thinking strategically about building and maintaining dynamic communities. The responding students in this *On the Table* event showed themselves to be engaged and interested in matters important to their communities and as a result are of an enthusiastic and willing capacity to take action and influence change.

*In total, 184 students participated in the live polling, with an average of 155.2 responding to each question.

of conversations on social media, with 8,561 total #OntheTable2014 mentions. These mentions were amplified to source followers, generating potentially almost 17,000,000 impressions.³¹

When the social media campaign launched on February 19, 2014, excitement around *On the Table* generated 132 immediate mentions. Conversations continued to grow, reaching a total of 2,543 pre-event mentions spanning February 19 to May 11. As expected, conversations peaked on May 12 with 5,169 mentions—the highest frequency of conversations during the campaign. Conversations continued in the week following, with 865 mentions from May 13 until June 5. The bulk of the mentions came from Twitter (97.8%), although there were occasional posts from Facebook, blogs, and the mainstream news. Social connections drove engagement throughout the campaign, as messages were not just posted, but also shared with and viewed by others. Out of the over 8,500 original mentions, 3,718 were retweeted. Additionally, 29 videos and images were viewed 1,865 times.

At the launch and leading up to May 12, the conversation on social media was in anticipation of the one-day initiative, focusing primarily on individuals attending and participating in dinners as well as expressing enthusiasms, such as excitement and hope. During the meal conversations day-of, focus shifted to issue topics and accountability, with themes acquiring more specificity and participants relating what they discussed at their meals. For example, social media users stated, “We need to bring music, theater, art, dance back into the schools. That’s how we make it important again”; “A series of ideas hatched tonight: 1) Creating cultural incubators just as we do tech and biz ones...”; and “Social services providing for basic needs + a place to realize CHOICE as tool for change = citywide transformation #OntheTable2014 #ideaschat.”

Common words that emerged in social media posts on May 12 include: investment, education, police, incarceration, arts, sustainability, health, food, violence, children, civic, volunteerism, class, income, future—all of which reaffirm the priorities respondents indicated in the survey.

After May 12, the conversation progressed from issues to action, with users sharing their ideas for next steps and expressing excitement over the experience of their conversations. Keywords include: great minds, respect, amazing, dedicated, vision,

spark, brainstorm, change, leadership, embrace. For example, social media users stated, “Dear cities: steal this idea, love Chicago (or what I learned at #OntheTable2014 with @ChiTrust”); “Future of community development requires clarity of goals in complex times, local leadership & coordinated capital”; and “Fundamental base of this work is bringing people of all ages together to have a voice in democracy.”

A SELECTION OF BIG IDEAS

“Creating a Food Forest on public land, where perennial crops are planted that can be picked by people in need at any time. Recurring crops minimize labor and cost and are not dependent on renewable funding.”
“Tossed out an idea whereby the Mayor could convince Chicagoland Corps. to promote 6-month or 1-yr. rotational assignments by professional men, particularly African American men, to commit time in schools.”
“Suggested that ER and doctor intake include questions about food insecurity, and that these facilities be provided with referral sources for food.”
“Pilot a block-by-block campaign in tough neighborhoods asking neighbors to police themselves and incentivizing them with a monetary return of resources not spent on Chicago Police Department resources on their blocks. Each neighbor gets a share of the unspent police dollars each year based on crime reduction.”
“Bring the <i>On The Table</i> concept to public transportation and post these questions in the ad space on the trains encouraging riders to have these conversations with those next to them.”
“An Innovation and Design Trust to aggregate the multiple, parallel and sometimes disparate plans for Chicago into a new ‘Burnham Plan.’ ”
“Fund Community Fellows, professionals who spend one day a week working to improve their communities.”
“CBOs and information Kiosks, where community members “drop in” to discuss any issue from Basic Needs to Career Choices.”
“Each of Chicago’s 77 neighborhoods should have a compost site, or Earth Machine, in their community to collect food scraps. These could live at local schools or churches and provide for a closed loop food system on a neighborhood scale.”
“An urban Civilian Conservation Corp-type paid work program for unemployed men of color who would do work bettering the community like fixing potholes, shoveling snow/mowing grass of empty lots, abandoned homes, and homes of the elderly, regular litter pick up in parks, etc.”
“Compete for gang talent (up to curfew) with disposable walls for art tagging, night video trucks, and on the street job fairs.”
“Chicago needs a central clearinghouse for higher education resources whereby NPOs can make requests for assistance and projects and the clearinghouse can then network with the appropriate institutions. PHENND in Philadelphia is a good model.”
“Ask Google or Microsoft to set up technology centers in neighborhoods such as Austin and Englewood.”
“An availability of shelters and locations should be posted in public transportation/stations.”
“Enlisting young people to build the on-line tools for nonprofits to increase nonprofit efficiency for those too small to afford their own IT staff. Create a nonprofit kickstarter for nonprofit start-ups.”
“A CTA ‘C’ line or circle line connecting Chicago neighborhoods.”
“Creating sister neighborhoods, same way as the international sister cities program, in order to achieve through exchanges a better understanding among different communities and their race, economic status and social perspectives.”
“A citywide corporate social responsibility campaign for businesses and a public grading system for the performance of each business.”

A SELECTION OF BIG IDEAS (CONTINUED)

"Work with CFW to help prepare a women's economic security bill that includes protections for LBTQ persons."
"Providing boarding schools or other housing arrangements for students who are homeless or have very troubled home lives."
"'Cultural housing' - there are all these vacant buildings and schools; offering those spaces as incubators for artists who get to live there for free or subsidized under the pretense that they are creating art for the city/community."
"An organized ('central?') place to recruit board members for all area non-profits."
"Establish 77 Neighborhood Council for full representation to share and make accessible to visitors and promote their unique features."
"Food trucks in food deserts." // "Teach 3-4-5 year olds to say, 'no one in our city should go hungry.' "
"City wide data base for end of life wishes/advance directives." // "Free health care clinics in high schools."

IV. HOW DID THE CONVERSATIONS IMPACT PARTICIPANTS?

The overall impact of the conversations on participants will likely play out over the long-run; however, there were several important observations that can be made about the nature of the immediate and short-run impact on respondents. Respondents indicated they improved their understanding of issues and made new connections with other participants. They also revealed a very positive outlook on the extent to which the conversations generated an actionable vision for change and the extent to which they have a positive sense of their own ability to influence that change. Finally, respondents said that they would participate in some civic engagement activities at a higher rate following their *On the Table* conversations.

A. BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES

One observation about the short-run impact is that respondents reported their understanding of issues was improved by what they learned from their conversations. In fact, the immediate impact was very clear: 80.4% of respondents indicated an improved understanding (“a little better or more”) of community- and city-level issues, and almost one-fifth (17.9%) indicated that their understanding of community issues in particular was “much better” following the conversations. There was also a notable impact on understanding with regard to regional issues, with about two-thirds (66.8%) indicating an improved understanding of issues affecting the region. Figure 29 shows the extent to which respondents indicated an improved understanding of issues. Clearly respondents were educating each other on issues.

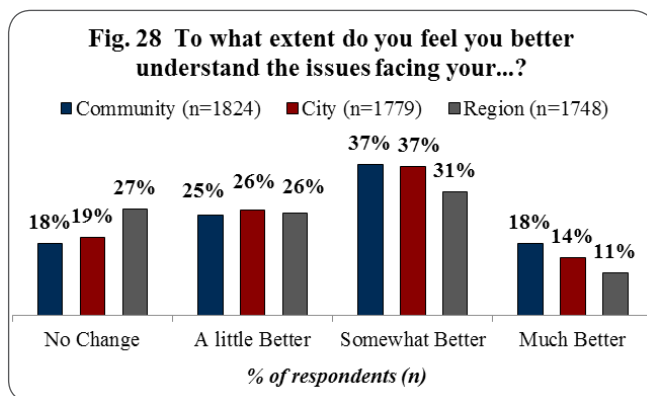
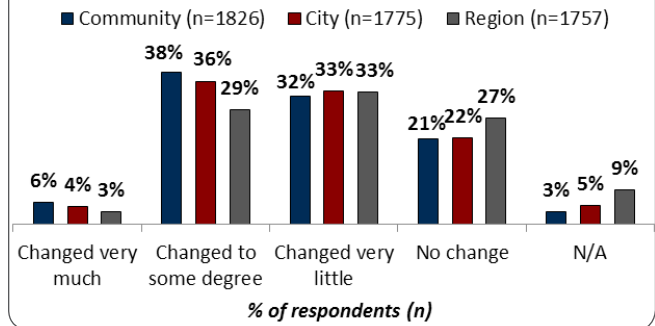


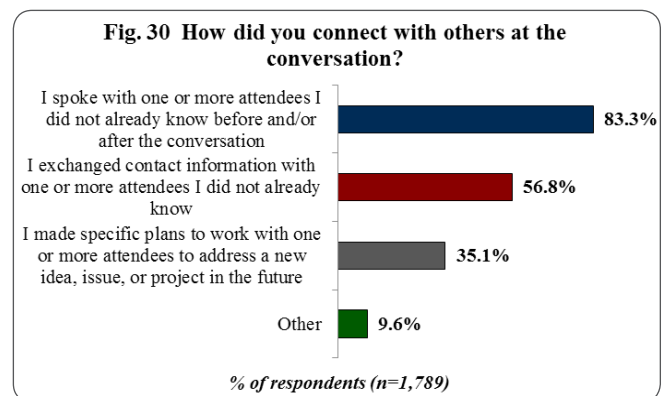
Fig. 29 As a result of the conversation, the extent to which your perspective changed on issues affecting ...



While respondents may have walked away more informed, perspectives were not changed dramatically by one conversation. A majority of respondents indicated little to no change in perspective at the community (53.3%), city (55.0%), or regional (59.6%) levels.

B. NEW CONNECTIONS

Another immediate impact apparent from the survey responses lies in the new connections made among respondents. A wide majority (83.3%) of respondents indicated they made connections with attendees they did not already know. This observation is interesting given that the most common way for respondents to have heard about the initiative was through an invitation from a colleague or friend. If individuals were invited by people they know, but also making connections with new people, then it is likely that separate, previously unconnected networks were being brought together through the conversations.



Beyond making new connections, individuals were planning concrete steps to follow-up with the new connections after the conversation in ways that indicate they

expect to collaborate to take action on an issue in the future. More than half of respondents (56.8%) indicated they exchanged contact information with one or more attendees. In addition, more than one-third of respondents (35.1%) reported that they had made plans with one or more attendees to address an issue or action in the future. A number of “other” respondents already knew many of their fellow participants (25.6% of “other”) and planned to meet again with the same group (20.3% of “other”). These responses suggest a strong possibility that *On the Table* may have sparked the beginning of new collaborations of individuals and small groups, particularly for the purpose of taking action on local issues. Social media will likely play a key role in keeping these new connections active, with about 31.9% of respondents reporting they connected with someone new on social media either during or after the conversations. Figure 30 illustrates the high percentage of respondents specifying how they connected with others during the conversation.

Fig. 31 Did you connect with anyone new regarding *On the Table* via social media?

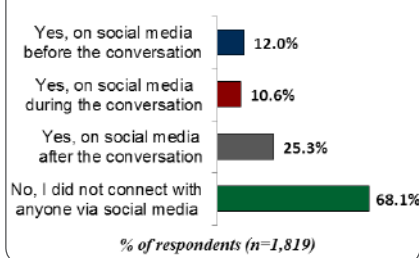
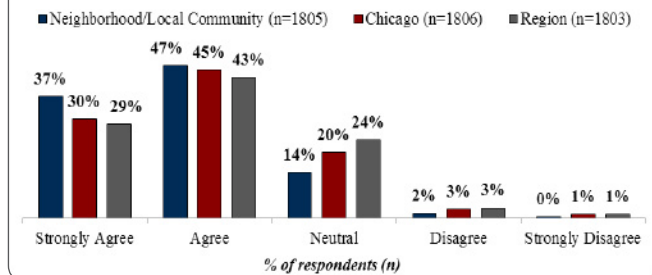


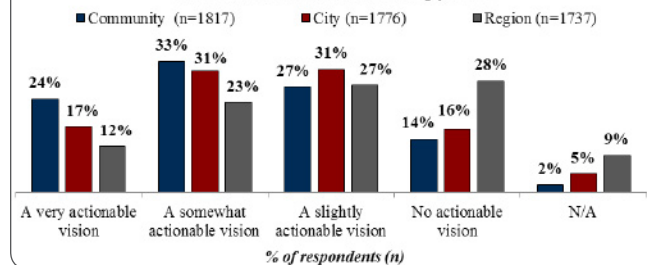
Fig. 33 This conversation can have a positive impact on the future of...



tions generated an actionable vision at the community (84.4%) and city (79.1%) levels; nearly two-thirds (62.1%) of respondents indicated the conversation resulted in an actionable vision for the region. Figure 32 shows the extent to which respondents indicated the conversation generated an actionable vision for change. The substantial impact conversations had on respondents planning to take action as a follow-up to their discussions, along with respondents' confidence in their own capacity to influence change, offers significant potential for organizations and institutions to harness that energy and help direct it toward change efforts. More than three-quarters of respondents feel this conversation can have a positive impact on their local community (84.0%) and Chicago (75.9%). Nearly all (95.4%) respondents indicated that they believe they personally have at least “a little” influence in achieving change.

C. AN ACTIONABLE VISION FOR CHANGE

Fig. 32 To what extent do you think the conversation generated an actionable vision for advancing your...



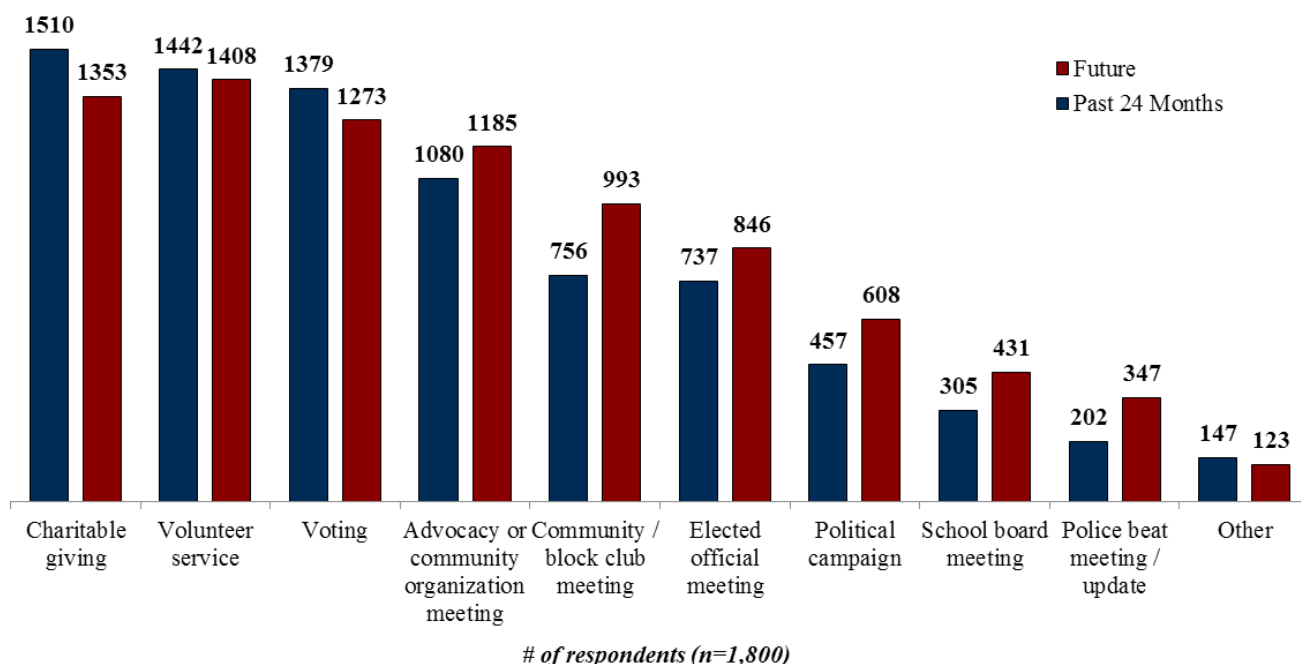
Respondents indicated that the conversations generated a vision for action and, relatedly, signified that they viewed their own potential to influence change very highly. They left the conversations feeling the discussions had resulted in very specific steps that could be taken to bring about change. More than three-quarters of respondents felt their conversa-

D. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES BEFORE AND AFTER *ON THE TABLE*

In an effort to gauge the impact the *On the Table* conversations may have had on the civic engagement activities of participants, respondents were asked to first indicate civic engagement activities in which they had participated in the past 24 months, then also to indicate the civic engagement activities in which they planned to engage in the future. The results are examined on both aggregate and individual levels.

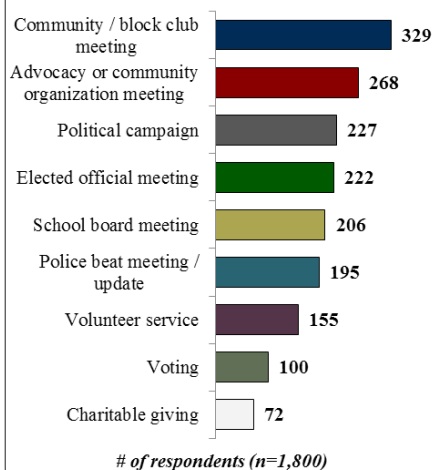
As shown in Figure 34, the most common civic engagement activities of respondents in the two years prior to the *On the Table* conversation were charitable giving, volunteer service, voting, and attending an advocacy or community organization meeting. The most common civic engagement activities of respondents intended after the *On the Table* conversation were volunteer service, charitable giving, voting, and attending an advocacy or community organization meeting. While on the aggregate level the differences in most civic engagement activities indicated before and after *On the Table* do not

Fig. 34 Past and Future Participation in Civic Engagement Activities



differ greatly, the greatest difference in the number of respondents indicating participation in an activity in the past versus the future was attendance at a police beat meeting. It seems likely that this increased interest in police beat meetings is related to increased violence in the city of Chicago. In terms of the total number of respondents planning to engage in a new civic engagement activity based on their conversation, respondents were most likely to select community-focused activities, such as taking part in a block club or a community organizing meeting.

Fig. 35 New Civic Engagement Activities Committed to by Respondents



civic engagement activities. This section, however, provides a broader, bottom-up view of the actions sparked by *On the Table* conversations. Respondents were asked to “provide examples of the action/s [they] are likely to take” regarding an issue or idea discussed at their tables. Based on 2,881 open responses³² from 1,789 respondents, the actions mentioned overwhelmingly relate to community engagement, followed by education, collaboration, and government.³³

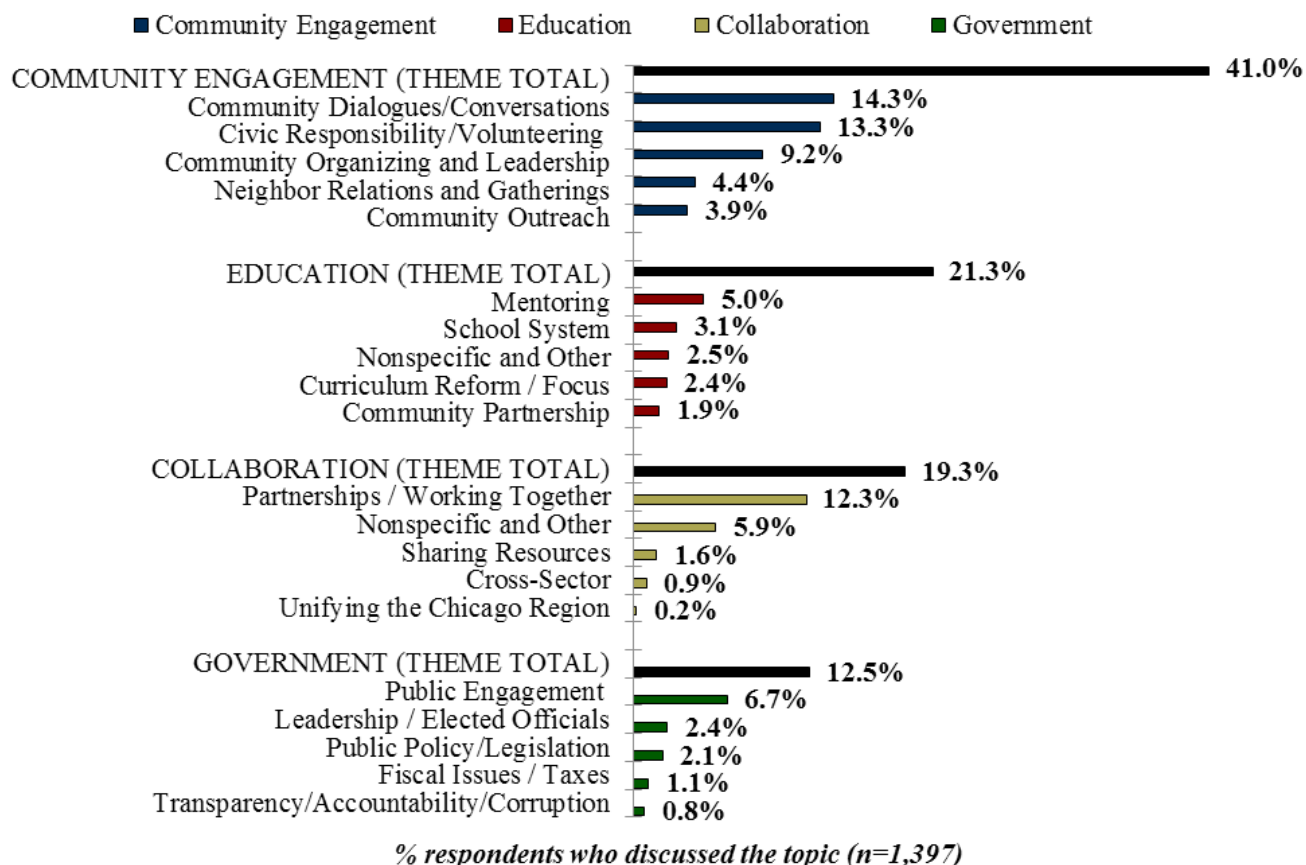
Of the 41.0% of respondents who mentioned taking action through community engagement, the most common type of action was to continue the group conversation and to create or attend other community dialogues. Respondents also plan to become more involved in community work, such as volunteering with local organizations and schools, joining local community organizations, supporting advocacy efforts, attending meetings, and bringing community leaders together.

Actions related to education were also common, with a focus on developing and funding mentoring programs for youth and finding different ways of supporting neighborhood schools. Collaboration was another key action theme that emerged and was generally focused on creating work and organizational collaboration, building new coalitions and partnerships (especially nonprofits), connecting

E. EMERGENT ACTIONS

The data presented in Figures 34 and 35 provide a good snapshot of the ways in which respondents have been and plan to be engaged in pre-defined

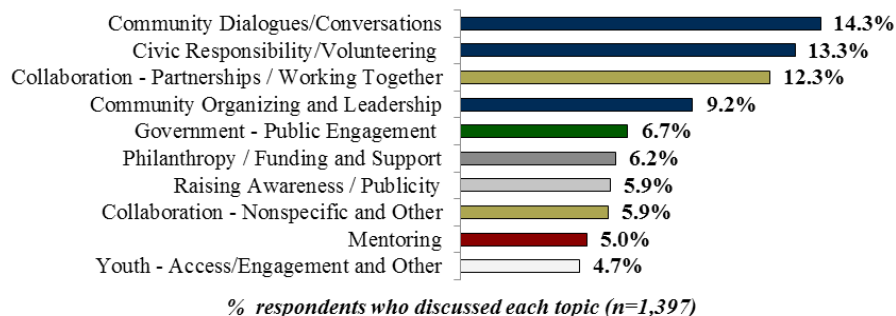
Fig. 36 ACTIONS // Breakdown of Main Themes by Topic



leaders, and convening stakeholder groups. Other actions include networking, following up with table participants, and developing a community plan. Additionally, government surfaced as a prominent action theme, with a primary focus on public engagement, such as speaking with alderman, attending meetings, voting, and writing a state representative, followed by working for changes in public policy, with a focus on tax policy.

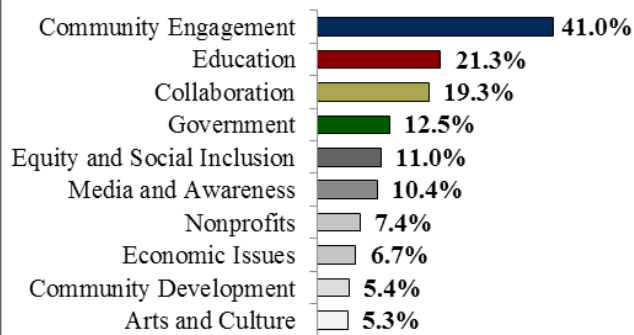
Other prominent action topics include program funding, primarily related to seeking more funding, but also on encouraging more charitable giving; raising awareness within one's community and spreading the word about events or gatherings; and supporting youth engagement by helping to get more youth at the table and ensuring that their voices are heard.

Fig. 37 Top ACTIONS by Topic



In line with data in Section D on overall and new civic engagement activities, intended actions generated by conversations are primarily focused on local community engagement—by taking part in community meetings and dialogues, volunteering, and through joining local advocacy and organizing efforts. This section suggests that the actions emerging from the *On the Table* conversations are primarily focused on building partnerships and collaboration as well as supporting youth and

Fig. 38 Top ACTIONS by Theme



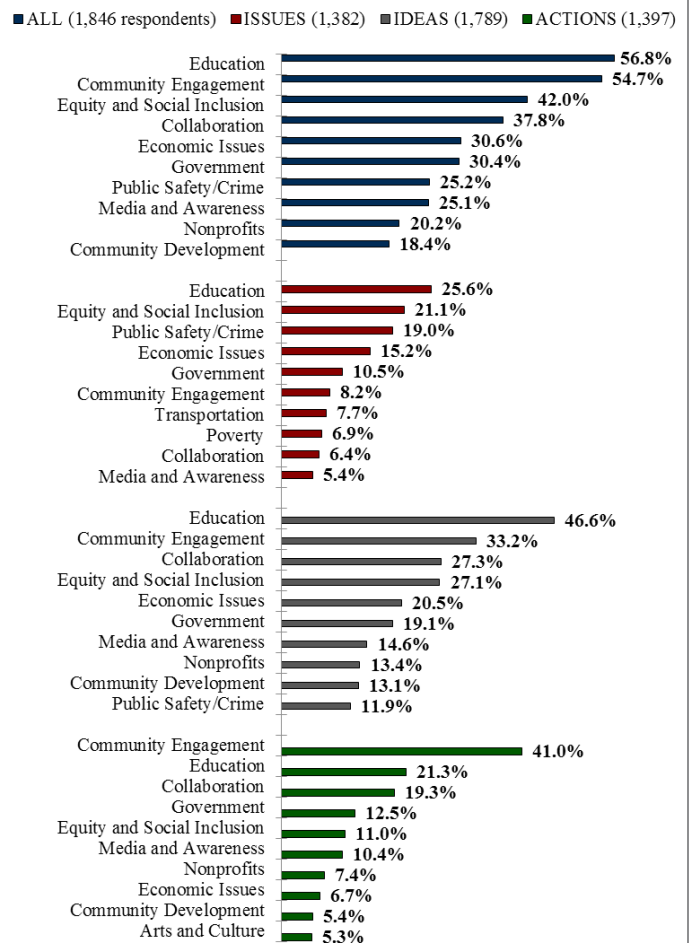
% of respondents who discussed each theme (n=1,397)

schools. This observation differs from the results on past and future civic engagement activity, which suggest a strong general focus on charitable giving and government-related activities such as voting.

F. Shifting Priorities: From Issues to Ideas to Action

Survey results reveal a shift in respondents' priorities across issues, ideas, and actions. Figures 39 and 40 illustrate the overall relative distribution of themes and topics as well as the specific distribution within issues, ideas, and actions.³⁴ While these data have been explored individually in detail throughout Sections III and IV of this report, these graphs bring together the distributions across categories for comparison; fundamentally they reveal what respondents talked about and make visible how the conversations shifted between issues and ideas and how priorities began to emerge in developing action plans. Most predominately, these figures make visible the rise in community engagement within the issues-to-action framework, indicating an overall trend in how respondents are likely to put their ideas for addressing identified issues into action moving forward.

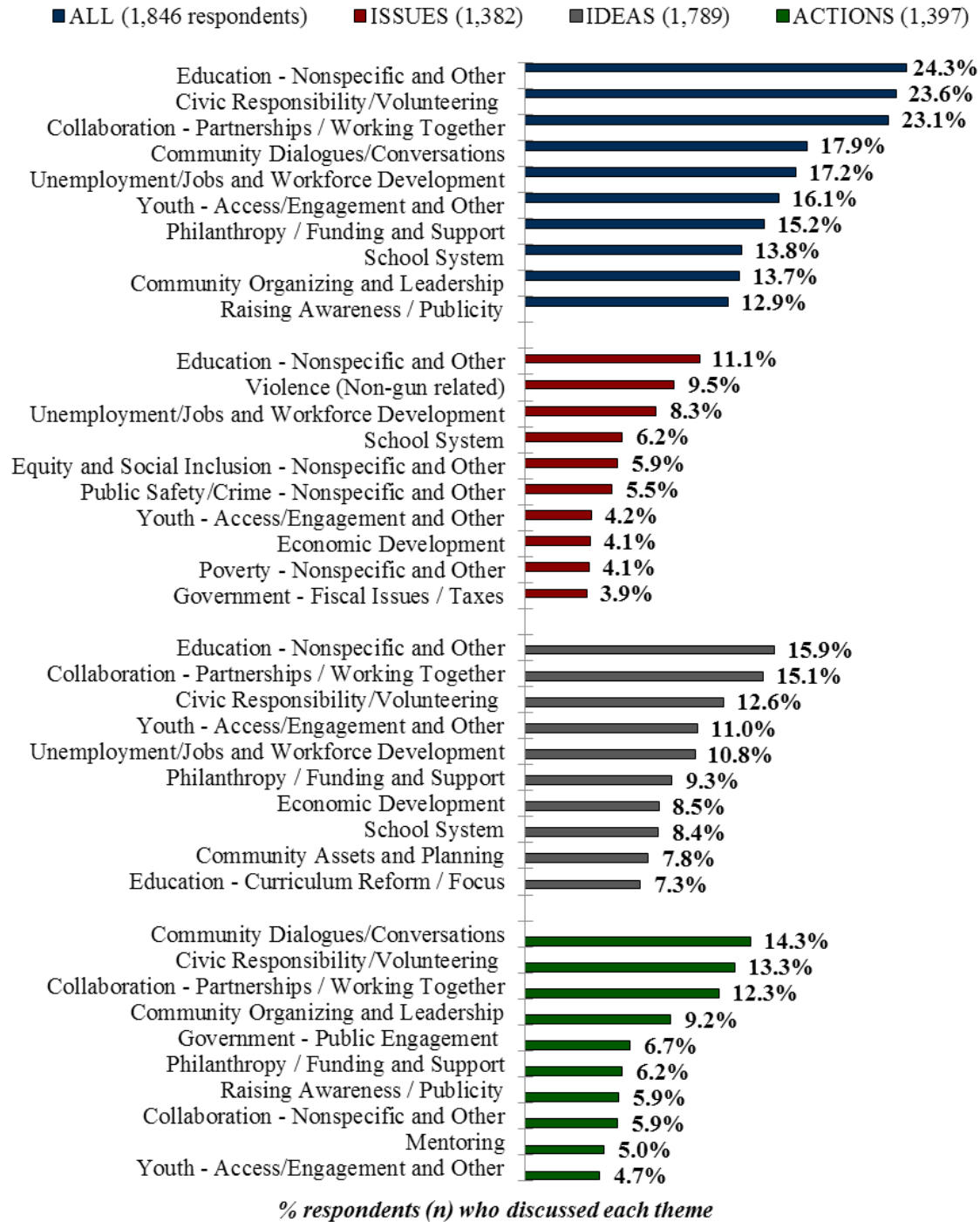
Fig. 39 ALL // Breakdown by Theme



% respondents (n) who discussed each theme

I was just really inspired across the board. And I hope the Trust does something again similar in nature to this, and if they don't, I hope the people that participated in all of the conversations splinter off and continue to keep their own discussions going. —INTERVIEWEE

Fig. 40 ALL // Breakdown by Topic



V. CONCLUSION

Examining the impact of *On the Table* began with the three questions posed by IPCE: who participated, what was discussed, and how did the conversations impact participants? We have a collection of data that support several key observations about the impact of the region-wide conversation.

Thousands of people from all over the region took part in the *On the Table* initiative. Those who registered were a diverse mix, according to our demographic measures of race, gender, and age. Respondents were primarily invited to attend by colleagues, and although many took part because they enjoy conversation, most importantly they participated in order to help create positive change with others—an intent that also emerged as a common theme in the conversations. *On the Table* successfully brought together previously connected and unconnected individuals from across the region to engage in rich conversations about how to move the region forward. Outside of mealtime conversations, the initiative also saw thousands of conversations on social media, with the total #OntheTable2014 mentions generating potentially around 17,000,000 impressions to source followers.

Although respondents were interested in a wide range of issues, the themes of education, community engagement, equity and social inclusion, and collaboration were the most commonly discussed. Respondents overwhelmingly discussed topics about education. Specifically, conversations that focused on education referenced providing high-quality public education for all, school funding, and youth programming, such as mentorships. Given how common of a theme education was and the breadth of education topics, the Trust would likely find enough interest among residents of the region to have an *On the Table*-style dialogue focusing just on the topic of education. Furthermore, the fact that the second most discussed theme was community engagement (on key topics such as dialogue, civic responsibility, volunteerism, and neighborhood connection), combined with the apparent desire expressed by survey respondents to connect with others in taking action, presents an opportunity for the Trust, community organizations, and other institutions that operate at the neighborhood, city, and regional levels. Conversations on equity and

social inclusion centered on youth engagement and the economic, educational, and racial disparities confronting the city. Lastly, the conversation theme of collaboration demonstrates that respondents would like to see community needs and issues addressed with a strategy that employs building partnerships and sharing resources across sectors, institutions, groups, and individuals. Collaboration, in this sense, was largely put forth as an idea for moving forward.

Beyond what was discussed, the tone of the conversations was near unanimously positive and forward-looking in nature. Respondents discussed an immense breadth of topics³⁵ and shared many big ideas, and most feel they gained a better understanding of issues facing their community. Respondents left optimistic about the potential of their conversations and eager to “continue the conversation.” In addition to continuing more traditional forms of civic engagement, such as voting and charitable giving, conversations appear to have sparked a focus on neighborhood and local community involvement, particularly through meetings, dialogues, and advocacy efforts. Respondents are also focused on building relationships and partnerships with neighbors, neighborhoods, and other organizations and institutions, as well as connecting with and working together more directly with elected officials.

Still, for others, the key question of “what now?” may linger. Given what we have learned from *On the Table* respondents, the Trust and other civic leadership in the region together with residents should ask: how do we respond to the call for greater and sustained community engagement and collaboration? How will we support education in our communities? How do we best engage the community members eager to move Chicago forward?

Already the Trust is moving forward in building action out of the conversations. Six collaboratories featuring ideas generated during *On the Table* are planned for October 2014. Through a partnership with Chicago Ideas Week and with the continued support of the Trust, the working groups will refine the ideas into a sustainable plan, which they will then pitch to a panel of investors and influencers in April 2015 in hopes of securing financial support for implementation.

It reaffirmed that people are passionate about their communities. And it didn't matter if it was a single mom, didn't matter if it was a CEO of a billion-dollar company, it didn't matter if it was a government worker, it didn't matter if it was an attorney or a doctor or a candlestick maker. They were passionate. They want to be involved.

—INTERVIEWEE

Ultimately, *On the Table* and this research have connected the Trust to a group of highly motivated and engaged citizens in the Chicago region. Respondents understand how issues and problems relate to each other in ways political, civic, and institutional leaders may not expect, and the value of that understanding should not be underestimated. These results reflect the potential power of such conversations, which is truly the potential of 'crowdsourcing' the old-fashioned way—bringing small groups of people together face-to-face to discuss a problem or idea. Word about *On the Table* has spread to areas outside the region, too, with leaders in cities such as Toronto recognizing the potential of large-scale public dialogue and expressing interest in modeling the *On the Table* initiative for their own communities.

The Trust is already taking steps to grow promising ideas generated through *On the Table*. Now, residents in the Chicago region must work together with the Trust, with other institutions at all levels, and with one another to continue these conversations, harness the ideas that emerge, and direct their collective efforts to address the challenges of the day and work to make a more just and equitable region for all residents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) would like to give special recognition to the following individuals for their efforts and contributions in organizing and implementing the *On the Table 2014* initiative. IPCE would also like to thank The Chicago Community Trust for supporting this report.

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AMBASSADORS

The impact of *On the Table* was enhanced by the outreach and participation of our more than 250 ambassadors assembled for the event. These individuals are influencers who are passionate about the Chicago region. They come from all walks of life: artists, authors, athletes, chefs, publicists, nonprofit leaders, civic leaders, donors and civic personalities. We'd like to thank them for their assistance and commitment to making *On the Table* an overwhelming success.

Elizabeth Abello
Craig Ahmer
Shaniece Alexander
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Veronica I. Arreola
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Glen Brooks
Gabriel "Gabe" Brooks
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Zandra Zuno
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Jessica Zweig

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 // “ON THE TABLE CONVERSATIONS” PARTICIPANT SURVEY

1. Did you participate in an *On the Table* conversation?

Yes
No

2. How did you hear about the *On the Table* conversations? (Mark all that apply)

I received an invitation
I saw or heard advertisement
Someone told me about it
I learned about it through social media
Other (Please specify)

3. If you received an invitation to participate in a conversation, who invited you? (Mark all that apply)

Friend
Colleague
Family Member
Acquaintance
Other (please specify):

4. Why did you choose to participate in the *On the Table* conversation? (Mark all that apply)

I want to help create positive change in my community
I am concerned about an issue or challenge in my community
I have an idea for addressing an issue in my community
I want to work with others to improve the quality of life in my community
I enjoy having conversations with people
Other (please specify):

5. How many participants (including the host) were at the conversation you attended?

Enter Number: _____

6. How would you describe the overall tone of your conversation?

Positive – most of the conversation was optimistic in tone
Neutral – the discussion was mixed in tone
Negative – most of the conversation was pessimistic in tone
Don't know

7. How did you prepare to participate in the conversation?

I did not prepare for the conversation
I read the materials provided for me on the *On the Table* website
I used other materials I have to prepare
Other (please specify):

Please describe how you participated in the conversation.

8. Did you contribute new ideas or perspectives to the conversation?

Yes
No
If yes, please provide examples:

9. Did you raise an issue of concern regarding your community, city, or region?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide examples:

10. Did you comment on new ideas or issues shared by others?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide examples:

11. Which ideas discussed at your *On the Table* conversation do you think have the most potential to bring about change in your community or the community-at-large?

Idea 1:

Idea 2:

Idea 3:

12. Did others agree with these ideas?

Idea 1: *Yes/No/Don't Know*

Idea 2: *Yes/No/Don't Know*

Idea 3: *Yes/No/Don't Know*

13. To what extent did your perspective on issues affecting your community, city, and the Chicago metropolitan region change as a result of the conversation?

Community: *Changed very much/Changed to some degree/Changed very little/No change/Don't know*

City: *Changed very much/Changed to some degree/Changed very little/No change/Don't know*

Region: *Changed very much/Changed to some degree/Changed very little/No change/Don't know*

14. To what extent do you feel you better understand the issues facing your community, city, and the metro area after participating in your conversation?

Community: *Much better/Somewhat better /A little better/No change/Don't know*

City: *Much better/Somewhat better /A little better/No change/Don't know*

Region: *Much better/Somewhat better /A little better/No change/Don't know*

15. How did you connect with others at the conversation? (Mark all that apply)

I spoke with one or more attendees I did not already know before or after the conversation

I exchanged contact information with one or more attendees I did not already know

I made specific plans to work with one or more attendees to address a new idea, issue, or project in the future.

Other (please specify):

16. Did you connect with anyone new regarding *On the Table* via social media (such as Twitter, Facebook, or other social media)?

Yes, on social media before the conversation

Yes, on social media during the conversation

Yes, on social media after the conversation

No, I did not connect with anyone via social media

17. To what extent do you think the conversation generated an actionable vision for advancing your community, city, and the metro area?

Community: *A very actionable vision/A somewhat actionable vision/A slightly actionable vision/No actionable vision/Don't know*

City: *A very actionable vision/A somewhat actionable vision/A slightly actionable vision/No actionable vision/Don't know*

Region: *A very actionable vision/A somewhat actionable vision/A slightly actionable vision/No actionable vision/Don't know*

18. How likely are you to take specific action regarding a new idea, concern, or issue discussed?

Very likely (I have some specific action in mind)
Somewhat likely
Slightly likely
Not likely
Don't know

19. Please provide examples of the action/s you are likely to take.

Action 1:

Action 2:

Action 3:

20. How much influence do you think you have in achieving change?

A great deal
Some
A little
None
Don't know

21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

This conversation can have a positive impact on the future of my neighborhood/local community. *Strongly agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly disagree*

This conversation can have a positive impact on the future of my city. *Strongly agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly disagree*

This conversation can have a positive impact on the future of the Chicago metropolitan region. *Strongly agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly disagree*

22. Have you participated in any of the following in the past 24 months? (Mark all that apply)

Community/Block Club Meeting
Elected Official Meeting
Advocacy or community organization meeting
Police Beat Meeting/update
School Board Meeting
Voting
Political Campaign
Volunteer Service
Charitable giving
Other (please specify):

23. After participating in this conversation, do you plan to participate in any of the following in the future? (Mark all that apply)

Community/Block Club Meeting
Elected Official Meeting
Advocacy or community organization meeting
Police Beat Meeting/update
School Board Meeting
Voting
Political Campaign
Volunteer Service
Charitable giving
Other (please specify):

24. What was the most interesting thing you heard during your *On the Table* conversation?

APPENDIX 2 // ALL ISSUES THEMES (n=1,382)

Theme	# Cases	% Cases
Education	354	25.6%
Equity and Social Inclusion	291	21.1%
Public Safety/Crime	263	19.0%
Economic Issues	210	15.2%
Government	145	10.5%
Community Engagement	114	8.2%
Transportation	106	7.7%
Poverty	95	6.9%
Collaboration	89	6.4%
Media and Awareness	75	5.4%
Housing	72	5.2%
Health	72	5.2%
Family	56	4.1%
Food Access	55	4.0%
Nonprofits	49	3.5%
Environment	49	3.5%
Arts and Culture	47	3.4%
Community Development	43	3.1%
Immigration and Migration	37	2.7%
Technology	28	2.0%
Judicial System	27	2.0%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	21	1.5%
Corporate Social Responsibility	9	0.7%
Parks and Recreation	8	0.6%
International	2	0.1%

APPENDIX 3 // ALL ISSUES TOPICS (n=1,382)

Theme	Topic	# Cases	% Cases
Education	Education - Nonspecific and Other	153	11.07%
Public Safety/Crime	Violence (Non-gun related)	131	9.48%
Economic Issues	Unemployment/Jobs and Workforce Development	115	8.32%
Education	School System	85	6.15%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Equity and Social Inclusion - Nonspecific and Other	81	5.86%
Public Safety/Crime	Public Safety/Crime - Nonspecific and Other	76	5.50%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Youth - Access/Engagement and Other	58	4.20%
Economic Issues	Economic Development	57	4.12%
Poverty	Poverty - Nonspecific and Other	56	4.05%
Government	Government - Fiscal Issues/Taxes	54	3.91%
Transportation	Transportation - Nonspecific and Other	51	3.69%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Partnerships/Working Together	44	3.18%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Segregation	43	3.11%
Community Engagement	Civic Responsibility/Volunteering	43	3.11%
Poverty	Investment in Low-Income Areas	41	2.97%
Public Safety/Crime	Gun Violence/Gun Control	37	2.68%
Nonprofits	Philanthropy/Funding and Support	37	2.68%
Economic Issues	Income/Wealth Inequality	35	2.53%
Public Safety/Crime	Gangs	34	2.46%
Education	Education - Curriculum Reform/Focus	32	2.32%
Transportation	Public Transit	30	2.17%
Housing	Affordable Housing	29	2.10%
Media and Awareness	Branding/New Narratives	27	1.95%
Government	Government - Public/Social Services	27	1.95%
Food Access	Food Deserts	26	1.88%
Government	Government - Transparency/Accountability/Corruption	25	1.81%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Discrimination and Prejudice	24	1.74%
Immigration and Migration	Demographic Change	24	1.74%
Family	Family - Parent Involvement	23	1.66%
Judicial System	Criminal Justice and Prison	23	1.66%
Housing	Homelessness	23	1.66%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Investment in Minority Groups	23	1.66%
Housing	Housing - Nonspecific and Other	22	1.59%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	% Cases
Media and Awareness	Raising Awareness/Publicity	22	1.59%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Promoting Diversity	21	1.52%
Family	Parenting Classes/Support	21	1.52%
Economic Issues	Economic Issues - Nonspecific and Other	21	1.52%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Women's Issues	21	1.52%
Transportation	Street and Road Issues	20	1.45%
Community Engagement	Neighborhood Collaboration/Connection	20	1.45%
Health	Healthcare	20	1.45%
Arts and Culture	Public Art and Art Infrastructure	20	1.45%
Government	Government - Nonspecific and Other	19	1.37%
Family	Family - Nonspecific and Other	19	1.37%
Education	Summer and after-school programs	18	1.30%
Education	Teachers	18	1.30%
Education	Higher Education	17	1.23%
Government	Public Policy/Legislation	17	1.23%
Government	Government - Leadership/Elected Officials	17	1.23%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Nonspecific and Other	17	1.23%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Seniors - Access/Engagement and Other	16	1.16%
Public Safety/Crime	Drugs	16	1.16%
Health	Health - Nonspecific and Other	16	1.16%
Health	Mental health	16	1.16%
Food Access	Hunger/Food Assistance	15	1.09%
Education	Early Childhood Education	15	1.09%
Health	Nutrition and Wellness	15	1.09%
Community Engagement	Neighbor Relations and gatherings	15	1.09%
Community Development	Community Economic Development	15	1.09%
Education	Education - Parent Involvement	14	1.01%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Gentrification	14	1.01%
Community Development	Community Assets and Planning	13	0.94%
Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture - Programming	13	0.94%
Collaboration	Unifying the Chicago Region	13	0.94%
Community Engagement	Community Organizing and Leadership	13	0.94%
Economic Issues	Wage Issues	13	0.94%
Transportation	Traffic	13	0.94%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	% Cases
Community Development	Build Sense of Community	13	0.94%
Nonprofits	Nonprofits - Collaboration	13	0.94%
Media and Awareness	Role of the Media	13	0.94%
Public Safety/Crime	Policing	12	0.87%
Education	Mentoring	12	0.87%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Cross-Sector	12	0.87%
Government	Government - Public Engagement	12	0.87%
Education	Education - Community Partnership	12	0.87%
Health	Disability/Accessibility Issues	12	0.87%
Environment	Sustainable Development	11	0.80%
Equity and Social Inclusion	LGBTQ	11	0.80%
Media and Awareness	Social Media	11	0.80%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Social Integration	11	0.80%
Education	Career Development	10	0.72%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Crossing Divides	10	0.72%
Environment	Clean Up/Pollution	10	0.72%
Community Engagement	Community Outreach	10	0.72%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Intergenerational Engagement	10	0.72%
Community Engagement	Community Engagement - Nonspecific and Other	9	0.65%
Corporate Social Responsibility	Corporate Social Responsibility	9	0.65%
Arts and Culture	Cultural Institutions and City Events	9	0.65%
Community Engagement	Community Dialogues/Conversations	9	0.65%
Food Access	Food Access - Nonspecific and Other	9	0.65%
Environment	Energy/Climate Change	9	0.65%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Faith-Based Community Work	9	0.65%
Environment	Recycling/Composting	8	0.58%
Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture - Nonspecific and Other	8	0.58%
Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation	8	0.58%
Technology	Technology - Data	8	0.58%
Immigration and Migration	Immigration - Nonspecific and Other	8	0.58%
Food Access	Urban Agriculture/Local Food Systems	7	0.51%
Environment	Conservation and Water	7	0.51%
Technology	Technology - Access	7	0.51%
Technology	Technology - Nonspecific and Other	7	0.51%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	% Cases
Education	Education - Leadership Development	6	0.43%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Ethics/Morals/Religion - Nonspecific and Other	6	0.43%
Health	Community and Public Health	6	0.43%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Character Development	6	0.43%
Transportation	Biking Infrastructure	6	0.43%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Sharing Resources	6	0.43%
Education	Continuing Education/Training	6	0.43%
Immigration and Migration	Immigration - Reform	5	0.36%
Environment	Community Gardens	5	0.36%
Community Development	Community Development - Nonspecific and Other	4	0.29%
Technology	Technology - Training	4	0.29%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Language Issues	4	0.29%
Media and Awareness	Media and Awareness - Nonspecific and Other	4	0.29%
Environment	Environment - Nonspecific and Other	4	0.29%
Judicial System	Ex-offender Issues	4	0.29%
Government	Government Overreach/Consolidation	4	0.29%
Nonprofits	Nonprofits - Measurement	3	0.22%
Technology	App or Website	3	0.22%
Education	School Leadership	3	0.22%
Education	Schools as Community Hubs	3	0.22%
Government	Elections/Election Reform	2	0.14%
International	International	2	0.14%
Judicial System	Judicial System - Nonspecific and Other	0	0.00%

APPENDIX 4 // ALL IDEAS THEMES (n=1,789)

Theme	# Cases	% Cases
Education	834	46.6%
Community Engagement	594	33.2%
Collaboration	488	27.3%
Equity and Social Inclusion	484	27.1%
Economic Issues	367	20.5%
Government	341	19.1%
Media and Awareness	262	14.6%
Nonprofits	240	13.4%
Community Development	235	13.1%
Public Safety/Crime	212	11.9%
Arts and Culture	181	10.1%
Health	172	9.6%
Environment	169	9.4%
Transportation	169	9.4%
Family	162	9.1%
Technology	120	6.7%
Housing	119	6.7%
Poverty	118	6.6%
Food Access	106	5.9%
Corporate Social Responsibility	78	4.4%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	75	4.2%
Judicial System	54	3.0%
Immigration and Migration	47	2.6%
Parks and Recreation	45	2.5%
International	20	1.1%

APPENDIX 5 // ALL IDEAS TOPICS (n=1,789)

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Education	Education - Nonspecific and Other	284	15.9%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Partnerships/Working Together	271	15.1%
Community Engagement	Civic Responsibility/Volunteering	226	12.6%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Youth - Access/Engagement and Other	196	11.0%
Economic Issues	Unemployment/Jobs and Workforce Development	193	10.8%
Nonprofits	Philanthropy/Funding and Support	167	9.3%
Economic Issues	Economic Development	152	8.5%
Education	School System	151	8.4%
Community Development	Community Assets and Planning	140	7.8%
Education	Education - Curriculum Reform/Focus	131	7.3%
Media and Awareness	Raising Awareness/Publicity	128	7.2%
Community Engagement	Community Dialogues/Conversations	118	6.6%
Education	Mentoring	114	6.4%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Nonspecific and Other	106	5.9%
Community Engagement	Neighborhood Collaboration/Connection	104	5.8%
Public Safety/Crime	Violence (Non-gun related)	100	5.6%
Community Engagement	Neighbor Relations and gatherings	99	5.5%
Community Engagement	Community Organizing and Leadership	92	5.1%
Government	Public Policy/Legislation	85	4.8%
Family	Parenting Classes/Support	85	4.8%
Corporate Social Responsibility	Corporate Social Responsibility	78	4.4%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Sharing Resources	78	4.4%
Government	Government - Public Engagement	77	4.3%
Poverty	Investment in Low Income Areas	75	4.2%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Cross-Sector	74	4.1%
Education	Summer and after-school programs	72	4.0%
Family	Family - Parent Involvement	72	4.0%
Government	Government - Fiscal Issues/Taxes	72	4.0%
Transportation	Transportation - Nonspecific and Other	70	3.9%
Media and Awareness	Branding/New Narratives	70	3.9%
Community Engagement	Community Engagement - Nonspecific and Other	69	3.9%
Nonprofits	Nonprofits - Collaboration	69	3.9%
Public Safety/Crime	Public Safety/Crime - Nonspecific and Other	64	3.6%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Transportation	Public Transit	64	3.6%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Equity and Social Inclusion - Nonspecific and Other	64	3.6%
Education	Career Development	61	3.4%
Community Engagement	Community Outreach	61	3.4%
Arts and Culture	Cultural Institutions and City Events	61	3.4%
Arts and Culture	Public Art and Art Infrastructure	61	3.4%
Housing	Housing - Nonspecific and Other	60	3.4%
Education	Teachers	56	3.1%
Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture - Programming	54	3.0%
Education	Education - Community Partnership	54	3.0%
Community Development	Build Sense of Community	54	3.0%
Education	Higher Education	53	3.0%
Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture - Nonspecific and Other	51	2.9%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Seniors - Access/Engagement and Other	50	2.8%
Poverty	Poverty - Nonspecific and Other	49	2.7%
Community Development	Community Economic Development	49	2.7%
Government	Government - Nonspecific and Other	47	2.6%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Promoting Diversity	46	2.6%
Government	Government - Transparency/Accountability/Corruption	45	2.5%
Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation	45	2.5%
Government	Government - Public/Social Services	44	2.5%
Health	Mental Health	43	2.4%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Intergenerational Engagement	41	2.3%
Education	Early Childhood Education	41	2.3%
Food Access	Urban Agriculture/Local Food Systems	40	2.2%
Media and Awareness	Role of the Media	40	2.2%
Technology	Technology - Data	40	2.2%
Economic Issues	Economic Issues - Nonspecific and Other	40	2.2%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Investment in Minority Groups	40	2.2%
Education	Schools as Community Hubs	39	2.2%
Health	Nutrition and Wellness	39	2.2%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Crossing Divides	38	2.1%
Environment	Sustainable Development	38	2.1%
Education	Education - Leadership Development	38	2.1%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Health	Healthcare	37	2.1%
Judicial System	Criminal Justice and Prison	36	2.0%
Health	Disability/Accessibility Issues	35	2.0%
Food Access	Hunger/Food Assistance	34	1.9%
Government	Government - Leadership/Elected Officials	33	1.8%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Social Integration	33	1.8%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Women's Issues	33	1.8%
Housing	Affordable Housing	32	1.8%
Public Safety/Crime	Policing	32	1.8%
Housing	Homelessness	32	1.8%
Education	Education - Parent Involvement	32	1.8%
Environment	Energy/Climate Change	32	1.8%
Food Access	Food Access - Nonspecific and Other	31	1.7%
Nonprofits	Nonprofits - Measurement	31	1.7%
Collaboration	Unifying the Chicago Region	31	1.7%
Environment	Clean Up/Pollution	30	1.7%
Technology	Technology - Nonspecific and Other	30	1.7%
Environment	Environment - Nonspecific and Other	29	1.6%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Faith-based Community Work	29	1.6%
Environment	Community Gardens	29	1.6%
Family	Family - Nonspecific and Other	28	1.6%
Food Access	Food Deserts	28	1.6%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Ethics/Morals/Religion - Nonspecific and Other	27	1.5%
Technology	App or Website	27	1.5%
Environment	Conservation and Water	27	1.5%
Transportation	Biking Infrastructure	27	1.5%
Health	Community and Public Health	27	1.5%
Media and Awareness	Media and Awareness - Nonspecific and Other	26	1.5%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Segregation	26	1.5%
Immigration and Migration	Immigration - Nonspecific and Other	26	1.5%
Education	Continuing Education/Training	24	1.3%
Media and Awareness	Social Media	24	1.3%
Transportation	Street and Road Issues	24	1.3%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Character Development	23	1.3%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Public Safety/Crime	Gun Violence/Gun Control	21	1.2%
International	International	20	1.1%
Government	Government Overreach/Consolidation	20	1.1%
Technology	Technology - Access	20	1.1%
Technology	Technology - Training	19	1.1%
Economic Issues	Wage Issues	19	1.1%
Health	Health - Nonspecific and Other	19	1.1%
Public Safety/Crime	Drugs	19	1.1%
Environment	Recycling/Composting	18	1.0%
Judicial System	Ex-offender Issues	17	1.0%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Discrimination and Prejudice	16	0.9%
Equity and Social Inclusion	LGBTQ	16	0.9%
Immigration and Migration	Demographic Change	13	0.7%
Education	School Leadership	12	0.7%
Government	Elections/Election Reform	12	0.7%
Community Development	Community Development - Nonspecific and Other	12	0.7%
Transportation	Traffic	11	0.6%
Public Safety/Crime	Gangs	10	0.6%
Economic Issues	Income/Wealth Inequality	9	0.5%
Immigration and Migration	Immigration - Reform	8	0.4%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Gentrification	7	0.4%
Judicial System	Judicial System - Nonspecific and Other	5	0.3%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Language Issues	3	0.2%

APPENDIX 6 // ALL ACTIONS THEMES (n=1,397)

Theme	# Cases	% Cases
Community Engagement	573	41.0%
Education	298	21.3%
Collaboration	270	19.3%
Government	175	12.5%
Equity and Social Inclusion	153	11.0%
Media and Awareness	145	10.4%
Nonprofits	104	7.4%
Economic Issues	93	6.7%
Community Development	76	5.4%
Arts and Culture	74	5.3%
Environment	73	5.2%
Food Access	52	3.7%
Technology	48	3.4%
Health	46	3.3%
Family	44	3.1%
Transportation	34	2.4%
Housing	32	2.3%
Public Safety/Crime	29	2.1%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	25	1.8%
Poverty	24	1.7%
Judicial System	19	1.4%
Parks and Recreation	15	1.1%
Immigration and Migration	12	0.9%
Corporate Social Responsibility	9	0.6%
International	1	0.1%

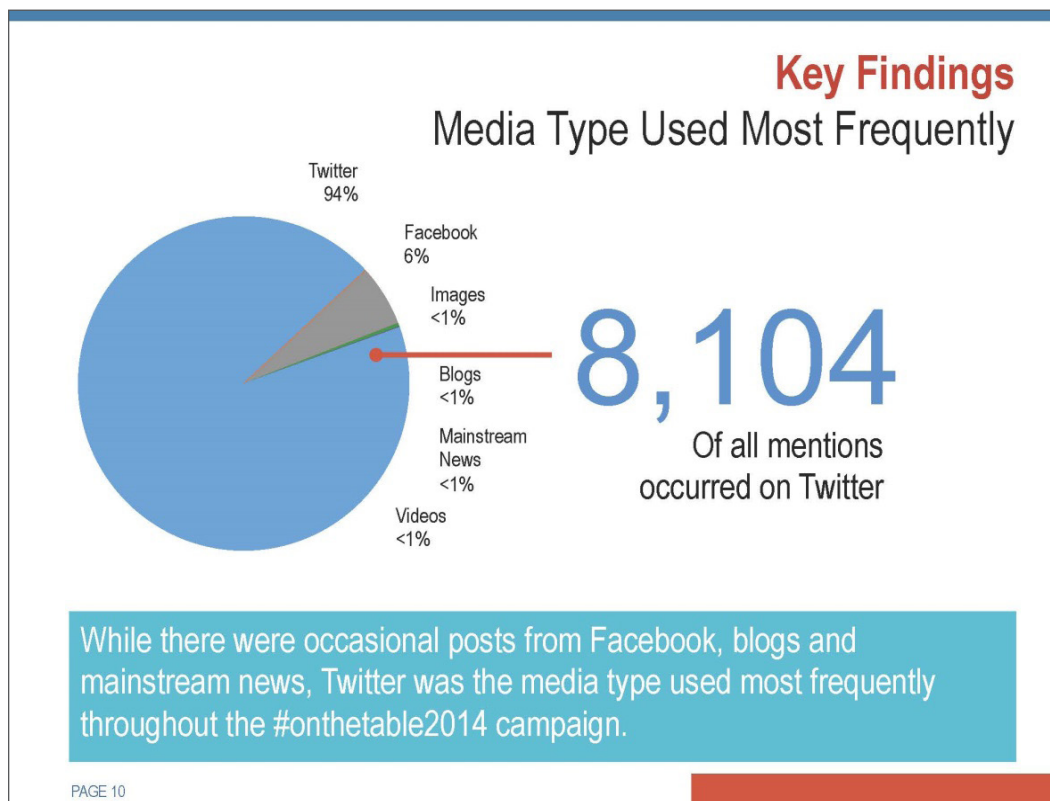
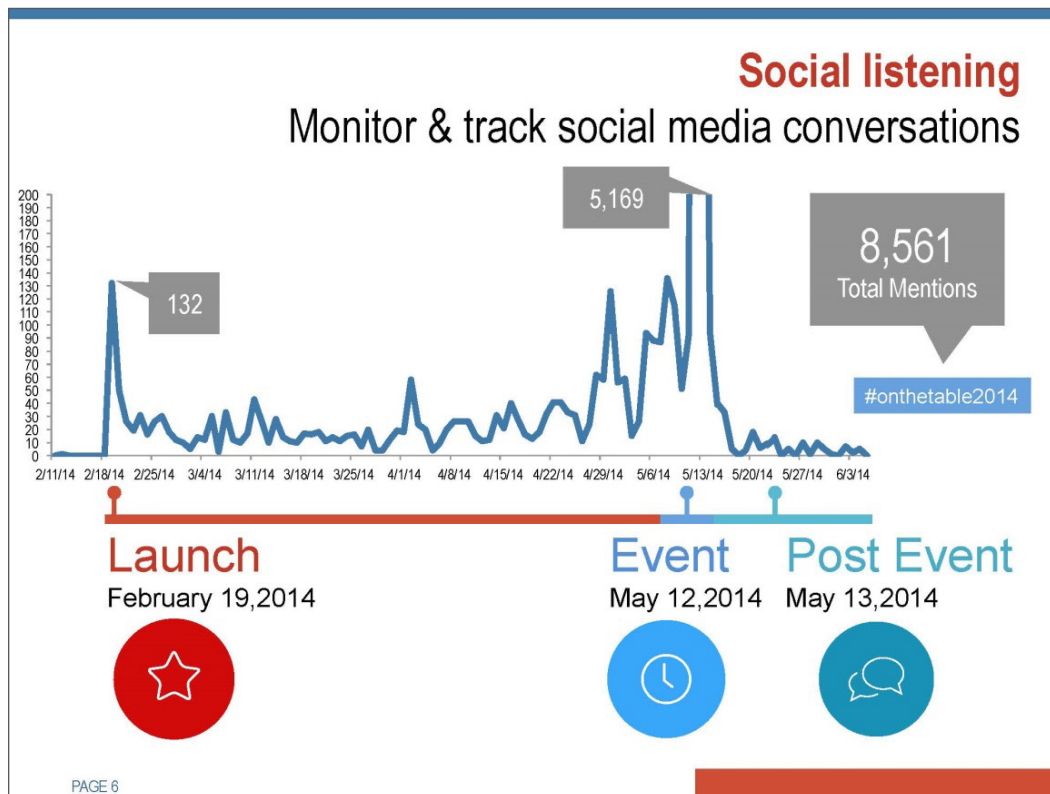
APPENDIX 7 // ALL ACTIONS TOPICS (n=1,397)

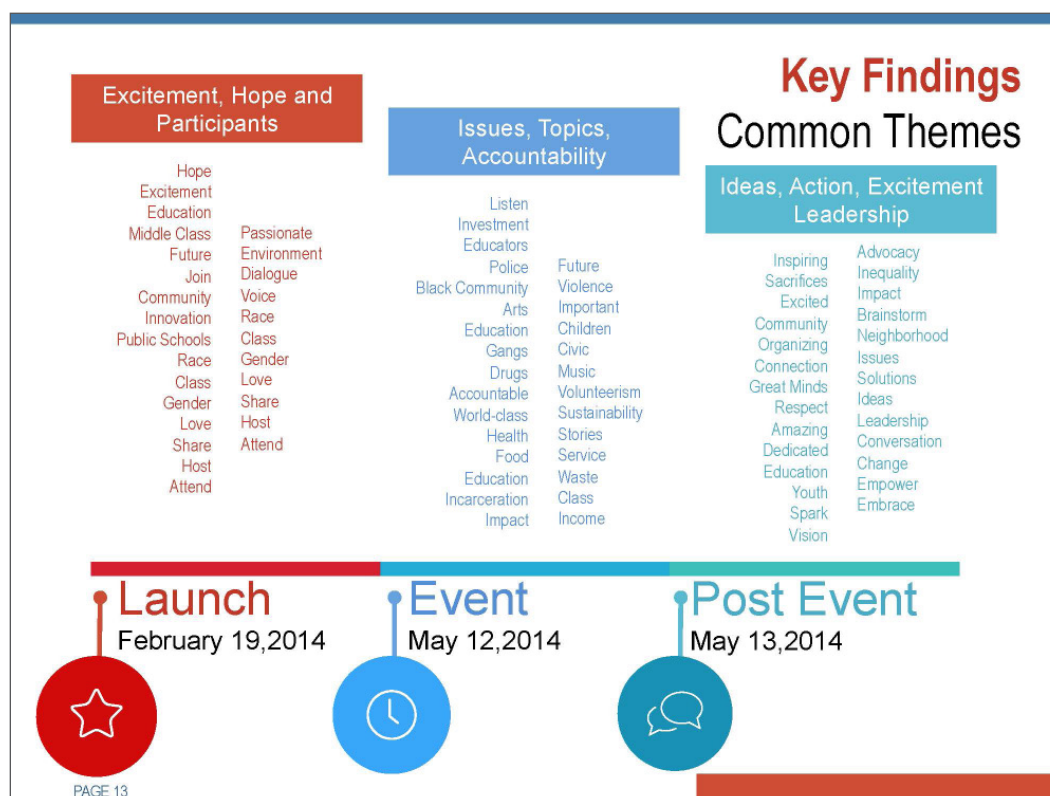
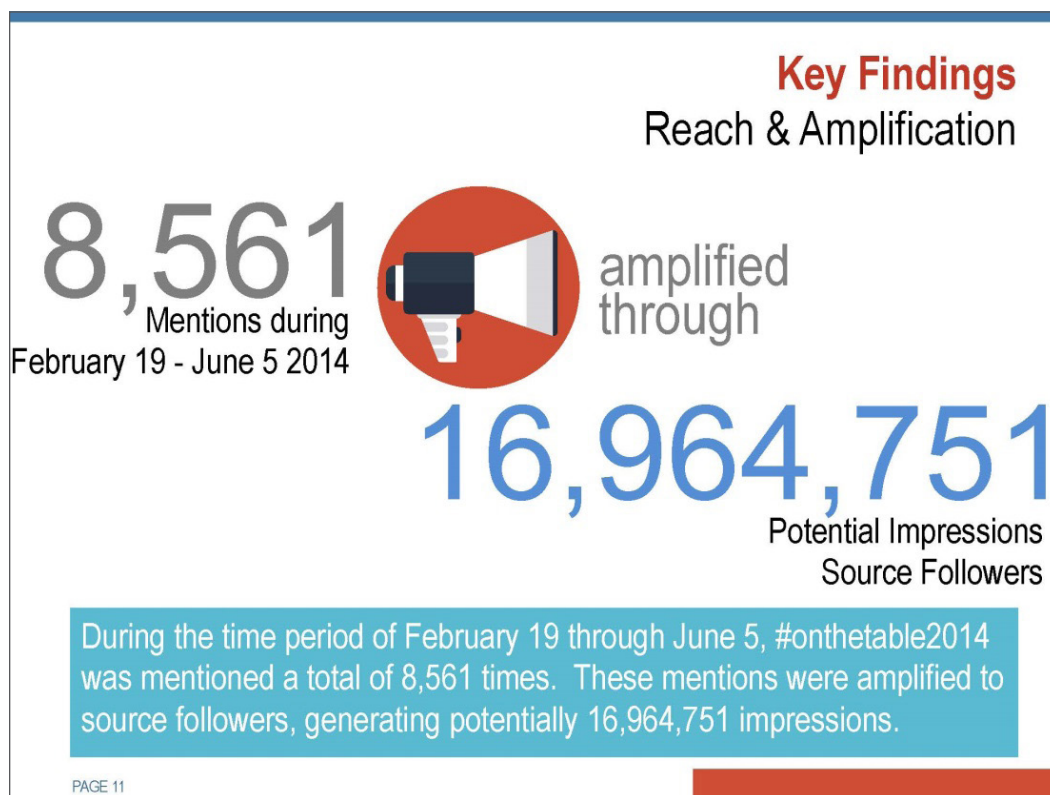
Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Community Engagement	Community Dialogues/Conversations	200	14.3%
Community Engagement	Civic Responsibility/Volunteering	186	13.3%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Partnerships/Working Together	172	12.3%
Community Engagement	Community Organizing and Leadership	129	9.2%
Government	Government - Public Engagement	93	6.7%
Nonprofits	Philanthropy/Funding and Support	86	6.2%
Media and Awareness	Raising Awareness/Publicity	83	5.9%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Nonspecific and Other	82	5.9%
Education	Mentoring	70	5.0%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Youth - Access/Engagement and Other	66	4.7%
Community Engagement	Neighbor Relations and gatherings	61	4.4%
Community Engagement	Community Outreach	54	3.9%
Economic Issues	Unemployment/Jobs and Workforce Development	49	3.5%
Community Development	Community Assets and Planning	46	3.3%
Education	School System	43	3.1%
Economic Issues	Economic Development	38	2.7%
Education	Education - Nonspecific and Other	35	2.5%
Government	Government - Leadership/Elected Officials	34	2.4%
Education	Education - Curriculum Reform/Focus	33	2.4%
Family	Parenting Classes/Support	31	2.2%
Government	Public Policy/Legislation	29	2.1%
Media and Awareness	Social Media	29	2.1%
Arts and Culture	Cultural Institutions and City Events	28	2.0%
Community Engagement	Neighborhood Collaboration/Connection	28	2.0%
Technology	Technology - Data	28	2.0%
Education	Education - Community Partnership	26	1.9%
Food Access	Hunger/Food Assistance	25	1.8%
Education	Summer and after-school programs	25	1.8%
Arts and Culture	Public Art and Art Infrastructure	24	1.7%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Sharing Resources	23	1.6%
Environment	Community Gardens	22	1.6%
Education	Higher Education	22	1.6%
Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture - Programming	21	1.5%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Community Development	Community Economic Development	21	1.5%
Media and Awareness	Role of the Media	21	1.5%
Food Access	Urban Agriculture/Local Food Systems	19	1.4%
Education	Teachers	19	1.4%
Education	School Leadership	18	1.3%
Housing	Housing - Nonspecific and Other	17	1.2%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Equity and Social Inclusion - Nonspecific and Other	16	1.1%
Education	Career Development	16	1.1%
Education	Continuing Education/Training	16	1.1%
Nonprofits	Nonprofits - Collaboration	16	1.1%
Environment	Recycling/Composting	16	1.1%
Transportation	Transportation - Nonspecific and Other	16	1.1%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Seniors - Access/Engagement and Other	15	1.1%
Government	Government - Fiscal Issues/Taxes	15	1.1%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Promoting Diversity	15	1.1%
Poverty	Investment in Low Income Areas	15	1.1%
Judicial System	Criminal Justice and Prison	15	1.1%
Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation	15	1.1%
Community Engagement	Community Engagement - Nonspecific and Other	14	1.0%
Environment	Clean Up/Pollution	14	1.0%
Media and Awareness	Branding/New Narratives	13	0.9%
Collaboration	Collaboration - Cross-Sector	13	0.9%
Transportation	Biking Infrastructure	12	0.9%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Intergenerational Engagement	12	0.9%
Family	Family - Parent Involvement	12	0.9%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Investment in Minority Groups	12	0.9%
Education	Education - Leadership Development	11	0.8%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Women's Issues	11	0.8%
Health	Nutrition and Wellness	11	0.8%
Government	Government - Transparency/Accountability/Corruption	11	0.8%
Housing	Homelessness	11	0.8%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Ethics/Morals/Religion - Nonspecific and Other	11	0.8%
Environment	Energy/Climate Change	10	0.7%
Public Safety/Crime	Violence (Non-Gun Related)	10	0.7%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Education	Early Childhood Education	10	0.7%
Health	Healthcare	10	0.7%
Immigration and Migration	Immigration - Nonspecific and Other	9	0.6%
Poverty	Poverty - Nonspecific and Other	9	0.6%
Community Development	Build Sense of Community	9	0.6%
Corporate Social Responsibility	Corporate Social Responsibility	9	0.6%
Transportation	Public Transit	9	0.6%
Environment	Environment - Nonspecific and Other	9	0.6%
Health	Community and Public Health	9	0.6%
Public Safety/Crime	Public Safety/Crime - Nonspecific and Other	8	0.6%
Government	Government - Nonspecific and Other	8	0.6%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Faith-based Community Work	8	0.6%
Technology	App or Website	8	0.6%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Social Integration	8	0.6%
Health	Mental health	8	0.6%
Economic Issues	Economic Issues - Nonspecific and Other	7	0.5%
Health	Disability/Accessibility Issues	7	0.5%
Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture - Nonspecific and Other	7	0.5%
Food Access	Food Deserts	7	0.5%
Ethics/Morals/Religion	Character Development	6	0.4%
Environment	Sustainable Development	6	0.4%
Education	Education - Parent Involvement	6	0.4%
Family	Family - Nonspecific and Other	5	0.4%
Environment	Conservation and Water	5	0.4%
Government	Elections/Election Reform	5	0.4%
Nonprofits	Nonprofits - Measurement	5	0.4%
Technology	Technology - Nonspecific and Other	5	0.4%
Housing	Affordable Housing	5	0.4%
Judicial System	Ex-offender Issues	4	0.3%
Technology	Technology - Training	4	0.3%
Equity and Social Inclusion	LGBTQ	4	0.3%
Public Safety/Crime	Gun Violence/Gun Control	4	0.3%
Health	Health - Nonspecific and Other	4	0.3%
Technology	Technology - Access	3	0.2%

Theme	Topic	# Cases	%Cases
Media and Awareness	Media and Awareness - Nonspecific and Other	3	0.2%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Crossing Divides	3	0.2%
Collaboration	Unifying the Chicago Region	3	0.2%
Public Safety/Crime	Gangs	3	0.2%
Public Safety/Crime	Policing	2	0.1%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Language Issues	2	0.1%
Economic Issues	Income/Wealth Inequality	2	0.1%
Public Safety/Crime	Drugs	2	0.1%
Economic Issues	Wage Issues	2	0.1%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Segregation	2	0.1%
Immigration and Migration	Immigration - Reform	2	0.1%
Government	Government Overreach/Consolidation	1	0.1%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Discrimination and Prejudice	1	0.1%
Government	Government - Public/Social Services	1	0.1%
Community Development	Community Development - Nonspecific and Other	1	0.1%
Food Access	Food Access - Nonspecific and Other	1	0.1%
Immigration and Migration	Demographic Change	1	0.1%
Transportation	Traffic	1	0.1%
Education	Schools as Community Hubs	1	0.1%
International	International	1	0.1%
Judicial System	Judicial System - Nonspecific and Other	0	0.0%
Equity and Social Inclusion	Gentrification	0	0.0%
Transportation	Street and Road Issues	0	0.0%





Key Findings Common Themes – Pre Event

invest more in girls and women through education. On May 12, come be part of the conversation about our community: [#onthetable2014](http://bit.ly/1n3pv1l) www.onthetable2014.com...

Had a great discussion this morning with local service organizations regarding #onthetable2014. May 12 will be a great day for Chicago!

If #chicago means civic engagement everyone needs a voice @ChiTrust: Believe in the power of your own voice. May 12th. #onthetable2014

Proud to be a part of @ChiTrust's #onthetable2014. Will announce plans for a 5/12 discussion in Beverly/Morgan Park soon.

Ok, I need to look into this #onthetable2014 thing.. Food & community? Sounds like a great initiative! @ChiTrust <http://t.co/hNxfo2eZTC>

Our region must focus on structural issues like #segregation at the root of inequality & creating day-to-day problems. #onthetable2014

#onthetable2014

director public discussion event chicagoans ideas communities great forward 5/12 joining trust dinner future talk plan strong city excited 12th community hosting join conversation strengthen chicago meet host build passionate table looking build attend looking believes tomorrow twitter

improve the quality of life for middle-class Chicago by organizing and informing residents to take action. On May 12, come be part of the conversation about our community: [#onthetable2014](http://bit.ly/1eSn88w) www.onthetable2014.com...

Hey everyone I am working on a really cool project that is going to be huge and I would LOVE your support. May 12, 2014 æ" everyone in the Chicago area is going share a meal and talk about our community and share ideas for our future. Can I count on you to participate in #onthetable2014 check out the website...

PAGE 14

Key Findings Common Themes – Event

Vision can travel a long way. Working to build solutions and make Chicago a better place.

*Social services providing for basic needs + a place to realize CHOICE as tool for change =citywide transformation #onthetable2014 #ideaschat

Great talks at #OnTheTable2014 a great group and a spirited talk about the issues we face in the community! Our table was productive and everyone had a lot of input. Thanks Ad Faulkner for the seat at the table

A series of ideas hatched tonight: 1) Creating cultural incubators just as we do tech and biz ones ...

We need to have a societal commitment to change. We need zero tolerance for the people who create demand for this industry! #onthetable2014

We need to bring music, theater, art, dance back into schools. That's how we make it important again.

#onthetable2014

conversations bring discussion music trust dinner issues important community food thanks ideas chicago future event youth great jail city build #chicago tonight conversation work schools table education time group communities thank discuss

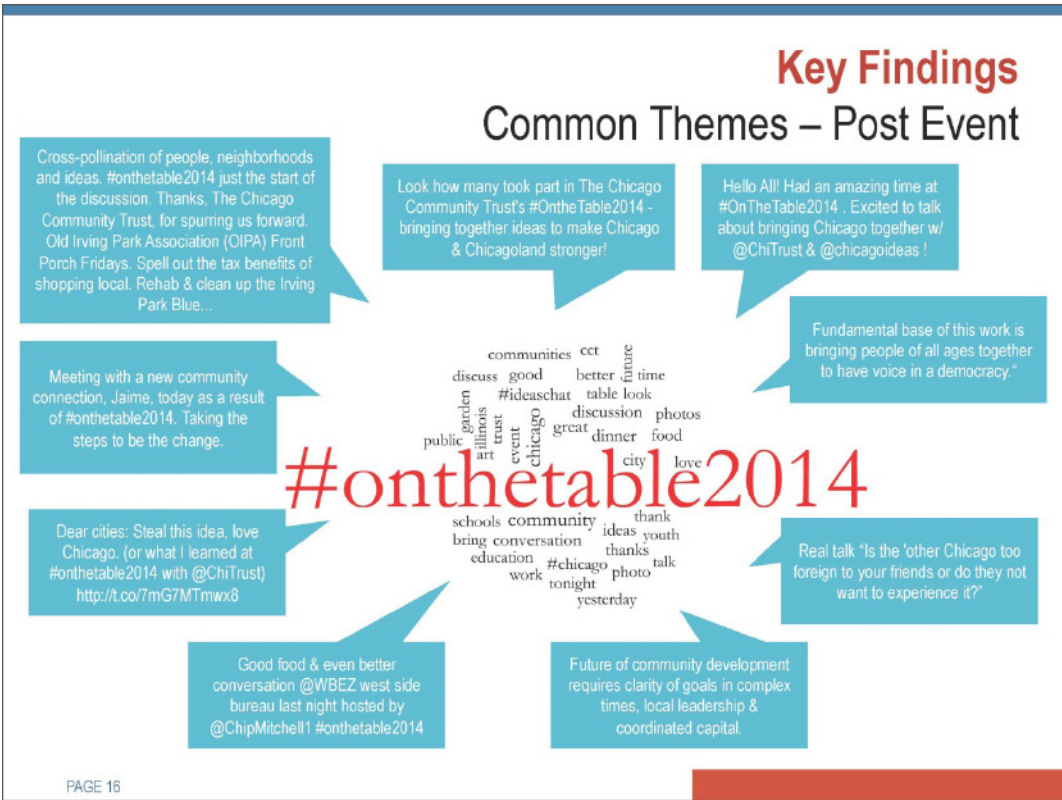
@JaniceLPacheco the best moment was realizing the amount of people, passion and energy there is to discuss and take action. #onthetable2014

Today was the day! Me and other community leaders gathered to discuss problems within the communities of Chicago as well as sound solutions.

Great community spaces? Where I can have a drink, hang out, be inspired, and get access to something new.

We have to change the stigma of prostitution and the class divide. We need to shift the understanding to support victims. #onthetable2014

PAGE 15



ENDNOTES

1. Harris, M. (2014, May 4). On the Table event to talk about Chicago's future. *Chicago Tribune*. Retrieved from www.chicagotribune.com.
2. Notable locations and hosts include: Businesses and Organizations - Microsoft, Bank of America, Northern Trust, Chicago Film Archives, Groupon, Chicago Ideas Week, Corporate Responsibility Group of Greater Chicago, Beverly Arts Center, McCormick, YMCA of Metro Chicago, Ounce of Prevention Fund, Northwest Side Housing Center, South Suburban PADS, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Chicago Cares, Chicago Cultural Center; Education - DePaul University, University of Chicago, UIC, North Central College, Mikva Challenge, City Year, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) including Fenger High School and Namaste Charter School; Government - Village of Park Forest, Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Illinois Humanities Council, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association Offices, Governor's Office, Cook County Board President; Faith Based - Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), Niagara Foundation, Chicago Theological Seminary, St. Catherine's/St. Lucy Rectory, Grace Episcopal Church, Catholic Theological Union; Media - The Chicago Tribune, NBC 5 Chicago 5, Crain's Chicago Business, CBS 2, WGN/CLTV.
3. U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Demographic and Housing Estimates; generated by IPCE; using American Fact Finder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (16 September 2014). U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Voting Age Population by Citizenship and Race (CVAP) Estimates; <https://www.census.gov/rdo/data/voting_age_population_by_citizenship_and_race_cvap.html>; (16 September 2014).
4. Ibid., ACS 2008-2012 Age Population by Citizenship and Race (CVAP) Estimates.
5. Figures 5 and 6 were prepared with assistance by the UIC Urban Data Visualization Laboratory.
6. See Appendix 1 for survey.
7. Although our database has records for 6,391 registrants, the survey was e-mailed to 6,117—the number of people for whom we had e-mail addresses. In total, 1,932 participants responded to the e-mailed survey while the general link posted on the website returned 151 additional responses; combined, both survey sources produced 2,083 responses. The response rate of 31.6% refers to the 1,932 out of 6,117 who completed the e-mailed survey.
8. Although these distributions *may* approximate the actual distribution of respondents and even all registrants, we cannot know with any measure of confidence just how representative our sample is beyond itself (each small “n”).
9. Within the survey, respondents were able to select all that apply, so some may have done multiple forms of preparation.
10. Responses in these fields reflect contributions to the discussion made by both respondents themselves as well as by other participants, as reported by respondents.
11. Issues and ideas will be discussed at length in this section (Common Themes), as they provide data on what was specifically discussed in conversations. For details around action, see under Conversation Impact (Section IV).
12. QDA Miner
13. See questions 8 through 11 and 24 in Appendix 1 for the open responses fields analyzed here. The analysis includes 9,661 responses on ideas and issues discussed from 1,845 respondents. It is important to note that the percent distributions presented in the figures refer to the number of respondents who mentioned each theme or topic at least once, regardless of the context within which that theme was mentioned (such as an idea, a concern, or an interesting comment made by another participant).
14. It's important to note that responses categorized within education were not strictly limited to school closings and reform. In fact, education as a top-level category had the largest range of reference in the number of sub-categories incorporated; while, on average, themes branched out into about five sub-topics, education encompassed fifteen in total.

15. Generic references most often appeared as the one word, nonspecific “education.” This type of response isn’t altogether unexpected, since survey answers tend to be short and provide few details. Despite the lack of specificity, it’s important not to discredit such responses in favor of those that include more information because it still demonstrates the overwhelming degree to which education was discussed in conversations. Generic references to theme might also speak to the complexity of education as an issue and uncertainty surrounding a novel approach to addressing the problem.
16. These include language and literacy programs, STEM training, civics, health and sex education, and entrepreneurship training, among others.
17. In addition to implementing restorative justice programs in schools, a number of respondents also advocated for creating restorative justice “hubs” around the city.
18. The word “volunteering” is a condensed version of the name the research team assigned to this identified area of community engagement, based on the high volume of survey responses focused on volunteerism. Included within this topic are the related concepts of civic responsibility and community service.
19. However, a number of respondents did not define the reach or referent of such commands, instead employing them as catchphrases often devoid of specifics.
20. Access to resources, programs, internships, jobs, etc.
21. But also among nonprofits, government, universities and schools, corporations, communities (see Community Engagement), and individuals (particularly groups, such as youth).
22. While certainly similar to responses related to partnerships and working together, networks were categorized separately because responses generally incorporated a human-to-human connectivity component, whereas partnerships and working together were often used in reference to institutions and organizations.
23. All together, the topics explained in detail in Section III comprise the top twenty topics of the day.
24. While youth were a primary target within conversations about job training, respondents also indicated a focus on low-income adults as well as the incarcerated.
25. Including, but not limited to, violence.
26. See question 9 in Appendix 1 for the open response field included in this analysis.
27. See Appendix 2 for full distribution of issues by theme and Appendix 3 for full distribution of issues by topic.
28. See questions 8 and 11 in Appendix 1 for the open response fields included in this analysis.
29. See Appendix 4 for full distribution of ideas by theme and Appendix 5 for full distribution of ideas by topic.
30. Ideas selected and shared with the Trust are drawn from the survey dataset as well as from the “Share Ideas” function on the *On the Table* website.
31. See Appendix 8 for a visual summary of key findings from the social media analysis.
32. See question 19 in Appendix 1 for the open response fields included in this analysis.
33. See Appendix 6 for full distribution of actions by theme and Appendix 7 for full distribution of actions by topic.
34. It is important to note that the respondent percentage refers to the number of respondents who mentioned each theme or topic at least once in any question response included in the analysis. “ALL” includes all 10 open response questions, which received 12,542 responses from 1,846 respondents. “Issues,” however, covers only one open response question and thus reflects a much smaller number of responses. Similarly, “Ideas” incorporates four open response questions, and “Actions” consists of three. This means that where respondents had four opportunities to discuss topics around ideas, they had only one opportunity to mention an issue topic. Accordingly, when comparing across groups our focus is on relative distribution within each group and not comparing totals across groups.
35. See Appendices 3, 5, and 7 for the breakdown of all 124 topics by issues, ideas, and actions.



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