

A logo consisting of an orange speech bubble containing the text "a seat at the" in white, positioned above the word "table" in a large, teal, sans-serif font.The word "table" is written in a large, teal, sans-serif font, centered below the speech bubble logo.

Transformational conversations about housing solutions in Gallatin County

At the One Valley Community Foundation, we know that stories are powerful, especially your own story. In today's world, the act of coming together has never been more important. Talking - and listening - to our neighbors is an important first step toward creating a more connected and engaged community.

On October 14th, we invite you to join us in a county-wide conversation about housing in your community through the A Seat at the Table event.

How will A Seat at the Table work?

- Our goal is to have neighbors come together, share a meal or coffee, and talk about their concerns and ideas about how we can address housing needs in Gallatin County.
- Conversations can be held online, or they can be in person over a cup of coffee, brown bag lunch, dinner, potluck, or picnic.
- Four to six guests per table is ideal. A Seat at the Table is about giving everyone a chance to speak and be heard.

Why is A Seat at the Table important?

- A Seat at the Table is a proven civic engagement event that inspires community members to engage in local decision-making.
- At our inaugural event in 2018, 74% of participants said that housing is the most pressing need in our county. We have intentionally designed A Seat at the Table 2021 to focus conversations on housing affordability and attainability for those who live, work, and do business in Gallatin County.
- Local leaders and funders are challenged by allocating scarce resources to address the housing needs of our community members. The results of A Seat at the Table will give local government and other leaders diverse, broad, and rich public input about housing needs and ideas for local solutions.

Who will participate?

- During A Seat at the Table, community members all over Gallatin County will host conversations, collect feedback from those conversations, and share that feedback with the A Seat at the Table planning team.
- Online surveys will also be used to capture feedback from hosts and participants. We will then partner with Montana State University to synthesize the data collected.



Then What?

- After A Seat at the Table, our team will report themes from our data to the community. We will also provide our local governments with the summary of our conversations and the thousands of voices captured to inform housing policies and funding decisions.
- Our initiative's website will provide information about our hosts, FAQ's, the data trends that we collect, and updates after the initiative has ended. This will help inform next steps on how to achieve our collective goals as a community.

Who is hosting A Seat at the Table?

- A Seat at the Table is an initiative of the One Valley Community Foundation.
- One Valley Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization that identifies and addresses the priorities and concerns of the Gallatin Valley. We believe that all successful communities have something in common – they make it possible for citizens to be engaged in identifying community challenges and solutions. It's a thing we call "civic infrastructure", and it's the only reliable way we can work together to create a better future.
- To learn more about One Valley, go to www.OneValley.org.

Join us in supporting A Seat at the Table in four easy ways:

- Attend a table! Share your stories and ideas by attending one of the conversations all around Gallatin County. Join a friend or colleague's table or find a public table. Diverse perspectives and ideas for solutions are welcomed and needed.
- Become a host! A Seat at the Table gives you the opportunity to connect with neighbors and colleagues, hear from those you may not already know and together, inspire action. Anyone can be a host and all are invited to participate.
- Become a supporting partner! The disconnect between the lived experiences of people grappling with housing issues and decision making can undermine results. We are excited about making that connection with A Seat at the Table. Consider investing with us in this proven model to engage neighbors in decision-making about their community.
- Be an ambassador! Help us spread the word about A Seat at the Table 2021. Share our social media posts and send people to our website.

Ready to support the project? We want to hear from you.

We'd love to hear from you about how you want to make A Seat at the Table a success! Contact Bridget Wilkinson at bridget@onevalley.org or Tanya Andreasen at tanya@onevalley.org for more information.

