

THE LONGEST TABLE

Dear Longest Table Community,

June reminded me why we do this.

From the Upper West Side to Pleasanton, Alexandria to Phoenix — tables came to life, strangers became friends, and communities remembered how good it feels to just sit together. Jackson Heights even made it into The New York Times, featured alongside Michelle Goldberg's piece, "Our Refuge" ([read here](#)).

July will be slower — FIFA, the heat, summer travel. But more than 100 tables are already in the works for 2026. A "what if" idea four years ago doesn't seem to be slowing down.

As one Jackson Heights organizer put it: "A handful of normal people with little to no experience can pick up the reins and pull together hundreds of people to share what is, on the one hand, a simple picnic — and on the other, an extraordinary gathering where everyone shares a joyful moment together." That's exactly what you're all doing.

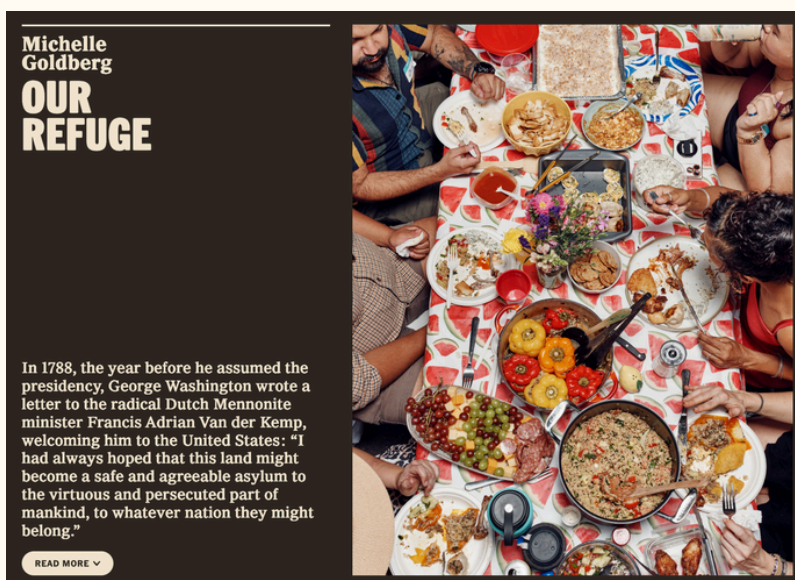
Last month I shared a stage with sociologist Eric Klinenberg at the Greater & Greener conference ([watch here](#)) — talking about Olmsted's belief that public spaces belong to everyone, and how that's alive every time we set a table where we all stand on equal ground.

More on all of it: The Oneliness Podcast with Monika ([listen here](#)), and the US Chamber of Connection with Charlotte Massey and Aaron Hurst ([listen here](#)).

We set the table together and invite others to join. That power lies with each of us — and wherever you are this summer, that's worth celebrating.

Maryam

Co-founder, The Longest Table





HELP US GROW THE TABLE!

Donate Today!

Why give?

We believe rebuilding community is one of the most important things we can do right now. Loneliness is a public health crisis. Trust is on the decline. The simple act of sharing a meal with strangers — and the joy of it — has been proven to change that.

From the Phoenix to New York, over 100 tables are already in the works — neighbors sitting down together, sharing food, and remembering what it feels like to just be in community.

Your donation helps us reach more cities, support more hosts, and keep the table growing.

**THE
LONGEST
TABLE®**

IN THE NEWS: OAKWOOD INCLUSION COALITION HOSTS INAUGURAL LONGEST TABLE EVENT

The Oakwood Register

[Read the article here.](#)

Oakwood's first-ever Longest Table brought over 240 neighbors to the table, hosted by the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition. Kate Furmanski captured the spirit of the evening perfectly: "We hoped that, by inviting people to slow down and show up for each other, The Longest Table would build bridges more powerful than the generation gaps, cultural differences, and political boundaries that might keep us apart." It did exactly that—and the OIC is already hoping to make it an annual tradition.



IN THE NEWS: BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER AT THE LONGEST TABLE ON MAIN STREET IN PLEASANTON

Pleasanton Weekly

[Read the article here.](#)

Pleasanton's first-ever Longest Table on Main Street drew around 1,500 people for a communal meal in the heart of downtown, supported by Pleasanton Connects, the Workday Foundation, and the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Mayor Jack Balch called it one of those very special Pleasanton moments that reminds the community what it's all about. We couldn't have said it better ourselves.



Photos courtesy The TogetherUp Institute

IN THE NEWS: CELEBRATING LASTING CONNECTIONS THROUGH REUNION & THE LONGEST TABLE

Barnard Magazine

[Read the article here.](#)

The Longest Table made it into Barnard's reunion weekend this spring, and it was a full circle moment. Maryam is a Barnard alumna, so bringing the table to Futter Field for the college's inaugural Longest Table felt like something more than just another reunion. Around 400 guests attended, many bringing decorations to personalize their sections of the table. Old friendships picked back up, new ones started, and nobody wanted to leave. Some of the best reunions don't need a program, just food and a place to sit.



Photos by Juliana Sohn



IN THE NEWS: WWU TAKES LAST NIGHT OUT CELEBRATION TO THE STREETS FOR UNIQUE END-OF-YEAR EVENT

The Bellingham Herald

[Read the article here.](#)

Western Washington University sent its students off in style, taking their end-of-year "Last Night Out" celebration to the streets with a Longest Table down the block. The Bellingham Herald covered what unfolded: hundreds of students slowing down before the summer scattered them, sharing food and a few last hours together. It's hard to think of a better send-off.

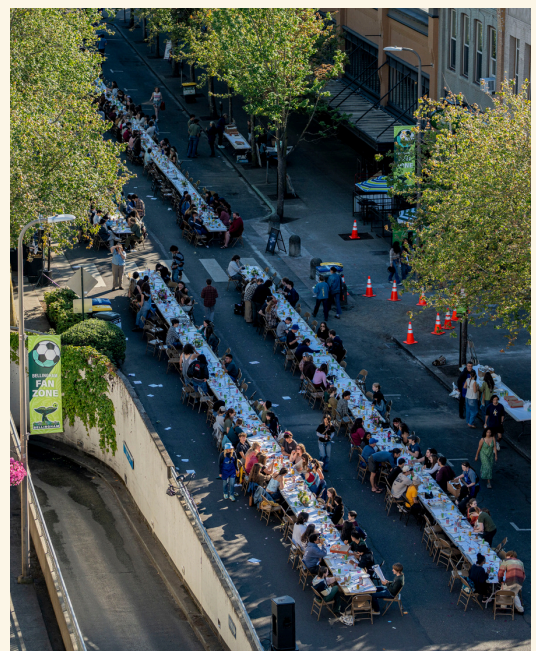


Photo courtesy WWU

IN THE NEWS: ALEXANDRIA WOMEN FOR GOOD PLANS TO BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER AT 'THE LONGEST TABLE'

[Watch the segment here](#)

ABC7 News, *Good Morning Washington*



IN THE NEWS: THE LONGEST TABLE BRINGS UWS NEIGHBORHOOD TOGETHER TO FEAST

The Spirit

[Read the article here.](#)

The West 102nd & 103rd Street block association hosted its second annual Longest Table on June 14, stretching two tables from Broadway to West End. Neighbors brought dishes from all over and the tables filled completely— politicians, community organizations like Bloomingdale Aging in Place, and first-timers all showing up alongside longtime residents. Volunteer Bryson Kernan Clark put it well, telling *The Spirit* that being able to connect with people in real life and feel a sense of belonging, even if just for a few hours, can be really transformative. We think so too.



Photos by Martina Dimitrova



Photos by David Schulder

GOOD FOOD, GOOD MUSIC, & GOOD COMPANY IN TRIBECA PARK

Tribeca, NYC

The Community First Development Coalition brought The Longest Table to Tribeca Park for the first time, welcoming neighbors for an afternoon potluck in the heart of the neighborhood. Local spots contributed food, the choir from Church Street School for Music and Art performed, and somewhere between the food and the music, the park felt like it belonged to everyone. It was also a bittersweet moment for the neighborhood: the owner of Duane Park Patisserie, a beloved local sweet spot, joined the table as the bakery prepares to close its doors. The kind of goodbye that only makes sense over a shared meal.



Photos courtesy 10013 Inc.

JACKSON HEIGHTS BRINGS IT HOME FOR NYC

Jackson Heights, Queens, NY

Nearly 300 neighbors came together at Paseo Park for an afternoon of good food, new faces, and the kind of easy connection that makes a neighborhood feel like home. Co-hosted by neighbors Midori, Junko, Gary, Yuka, and Paz, the gathering was warm, creative, and by all accounts—absolutely delicious.



Photos by Neha Gautam

HUDSON SQUARE PLAZA OPENS ITS DOORS

Tribeca, NYC

Hudson Square BID and the NYC Department of Transportation marked the opening of Little Sixth Avenue's brand new pedestrian plaza with a Longest Table Lunch, and the neighborhood showed up for it. Over 100 neighbors, local companies, and organizations filled a table stretching the full length of the newly car-free block from Spring to Dominick Streets. Shake Shack kept everyone refreshed with lemonades, musician Wayne Everest and his team played live sets, and a colorful mural beneath the tables made the setting feel like it was built for the occasion. It was a fitting way to welcome a new piece of public space into the neighborhood.

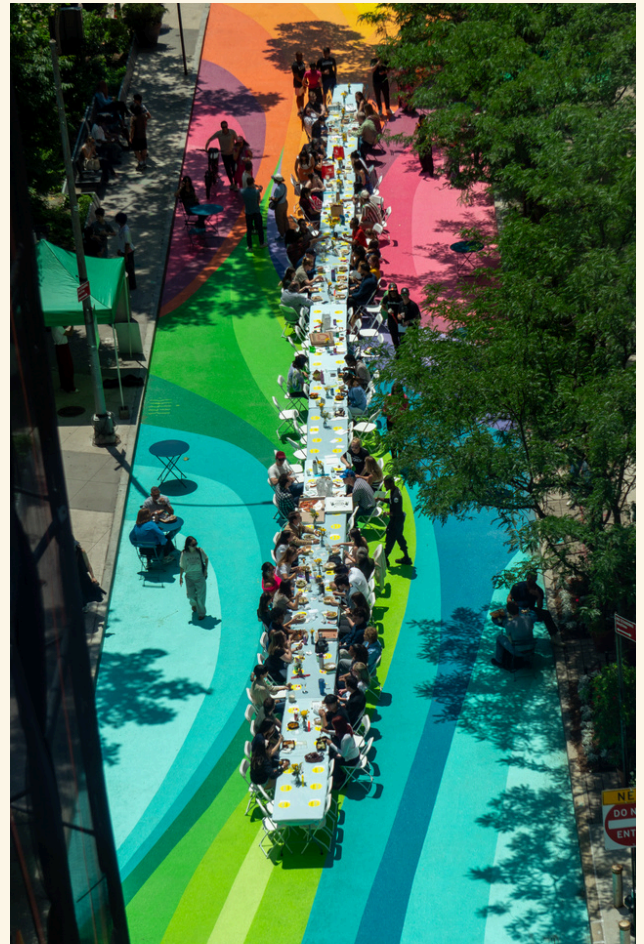


Photo by Dezirae B

OAKESDALE CELEBRATES USA 250

Oakesdale, WA

Oakesdale celebrated the country's 250th birthday the right way! Supported by Innovia Foundation, the gathering had the easy, unhurried feel of a small town that knows how to show up for itself. Pulled pork, face paint, and red, white and blue decorations set the scene while neighbors of all ages caught up over plates of food. Between bites, people stopped to write what they love about Oakesdale on a community heritage tree, filling in the roots and branches with the names, memories, and everyday details that make a small town feel like home. It was a celebration of a community that clearly loves where it lives.



Photos by Conny Crow

ALEXANDRIA SITS DOWN TOGETHER

Alexandria, VA

Alexandria Women for Good brought their community to Fort Hunt Park for an evening of shared food and new connections. What started in 2022 as a local giving circle has grown into one of Alexandria's most active community platforms, having raised and distributed over \$180,000 to local nonprofits. For a group built around the idea that women can make a larger, more visible impact when they come together, a table full of neighbors felt right at home.



Photos by Heather Dinho

PHOENIX GATHERS AROUND WHAT MATTERS

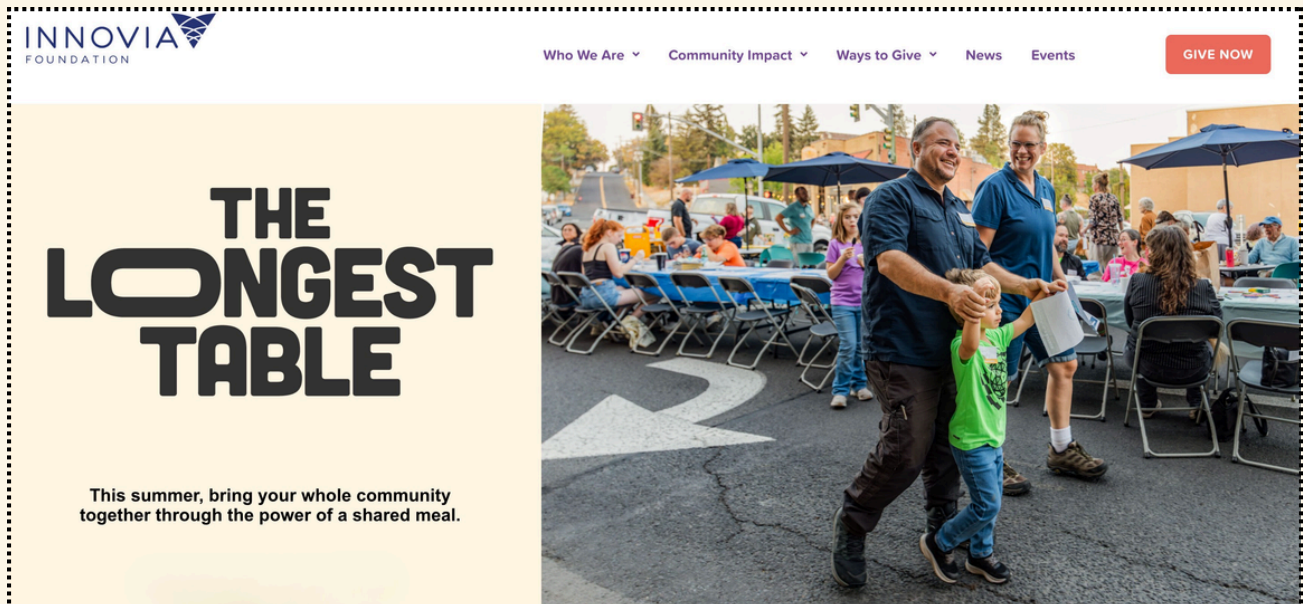
Phoenix, AZ

Phoenix took the Longest Table somewhere new. The Longest Climate Community Table brought together educators, nonprofits, journalists, businesses, students, and residents to talk about water, extreme heat, food systems, and community resilience, organized in partnership with Earth Gives, Green Living Magazine, GivingTuesday, and the Arizona Local News Foundation among others. It was a reminder that a shared meal has a way of opening up conversations that might not happen anywhere else, and that the most important ones are worth sitting down for.



Photos courtesy Urban Farming Education





The Longest Table continues to grow across Eastern Washington and North Idaho this summer thanks to Innovia Foundation's micro-grant program. Community hosts in the area can apply for up to \$2,500 to help bring neighbors together over shared meals and conversation, with funding available for organizing costs like tables, chairs, permits, promotional materials, and youth activities.

Applications are open on a rolling basis, and events must take place before September 30. **[Apply here.](#)**



Exciting news to help you build yours: The Workday Foundation just launched their Human Connection Microgrant Program to fund joyful, in-real-life community projects. Anyone planning a table can apply for a microgrant for programs in selected cities for up to \$10,000 before the July 31st deadline (**[more here.](#)**)

Even better—Workday made a direct grant to The Longest Table. If you want to host an event in one of their select US markets (Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Boulder, CO; Chicago, IL; New York City, NY; Salt Lake City, UT; San Francisco, CA; Santa Clara, CA; Reston, VA), we have resources to directly help you make yours happen! So get in touch via our **[website.](#)**

THE LONGEST TABLE

Upcoming tables in July

Pomeroy, WA
July 3

Lewiston, ID
July 4

Sheboygan, WI
July 11

Post Falls, ID
July 13

San Juan, PR
July 17

Bonniers Ferry, ID
July 17

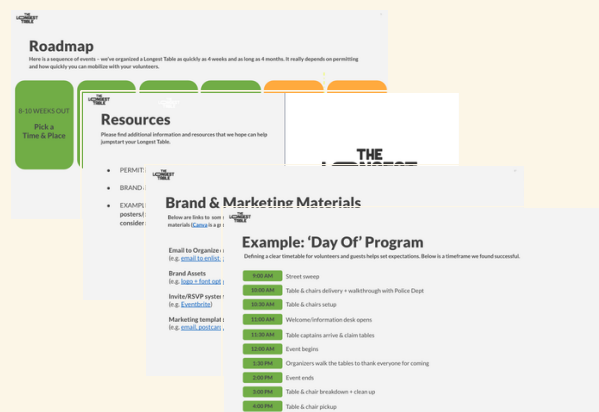
Spokane Valley, WA
July 23

Lenox Hill, NY
July 29

Port Washington, NY
July 29

Want to host a table?

Contact us for a Toolkit



Click here to 'sign up'. We'll set up a call & help you host your own.

Want to learn more or get involved?

Find us at <https://www.longesttablecommunity.org/>

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