

# UCSC 20th Anniversary Meal Sharing Host Guide

## Dining with a Purpose

**6-8:30pm or another 2.5 hour time-frame**  
**Second Saturday or on another day of month**

### **GOALS:**

- 1) To facilitate a 90-minute dialogue during the Meal Sharing experience that builds community and draws upon the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives of guests;
- 2) To create a comfortable and respectful space where people can offer their reflections and share their insights on the UCSC 20th Anniversary monthly social justice topic of the hosts' choice;
- 3) To connect people's interest and passion for the monthly social justice topic to action.

### **PROPOSED SCHEDULE:**

6:00-7:00PM Networking and Meal

7:00-8:30PM Discussion

**Encourage your guests to take a photo and post it on facebook or twitter! Use #UCSCBreaksBread #ItTakes20 @UCSCatUChicago**

### **INTROS (1-minute per person; 10 minutes total)**

- Sit around your dining room or your living room. It's up to you! Just find a place where everyone can be seen and heard. Depending on size of the group and if you have a co-host, you can also have two small discussion groups in two different areas of your home.
- What is your name and hometown? Ask people if you wish to share their pronouns (she/her/hers; he/him/his; they/them/theirs) so we're not assuming gender identities.
- What is your UChicago/UCSC affiliation or connection to the host?

### **Suggested ice-breaking question**

- What is one fun fact about you?

### **SET THE STAGE (5 minutes)**

Explain to your guests:

The reason why you're hosting. This meal is a part of UCSC's 20th Anniversary community engagement fundraising campaign. The format of discussion -- someone will read a question aloud from an index card selected from a bowl and everyone can share their reflections and insights. Encourage people to step up and to step back to get as many voices to contribute to the conversation.

### **DISCUSSION (75 minutes)**

Start things off by picking out an index card and posing the question. See where the conversation goes! Pass the bowl of questions around so that the discussion is more participatory.

### **Suggested Questions:**

## **February Focus Topic - Labor & Employment**

1. What was your first job? How did you get it?
2. Do you know anyone who is or has been a part of a labor union? What is your understanding of what the purpose of labor unions are and how they operate?
3. Where do you think most of the job opportunity is located in your city? How might this be an issue for someone who is seeking employment in a low-wage job?
4. What narratives are often created and sustained when politicians, the media, and the general public talk about unemployment and who isn't working? How might we challenge these narratives?
5. In what ways do privilege, poverty, and oppression impact the employment opportunities that are available to a person? Think about location, social capital, education, etc.
6. How has the globalization of the economy and America's shift toward the service-industry affected the job market and the realities of the 'working-class'?
7. What kinds of challenges could come with having to rely on a low-wage service industry job as the main source of your household income?
8. What is 'work'? Why do you think it is such a strong common value in many cultures?
9. How might a strong societal value of work and 'productivity' in the public sphere marginalize certain groups of people? How could we broaden our ideas of 'work' to be more inclusive?
10. Are you aware of any policies that have been enacted in your city/state/country regarding labor and employment? What else could we do as individuals, cities, nations, etc. to pursue justice for workers and those who are unemployed?

## **January Focus Topic - Housing & Economic Development**

1. What was your personal experience with segregation growing up? Was there economic and/or racial segregation in your town? How did that affect your experiences and perspective?
2. Where do you live now? How and why did you choose to live there?
3. Where does most of the affordable housing exist in your city? What is the relationship between poverty and job opportunity, affordable housing, and public transportation access?
4. How has the history of social and financial policy contributed to the economic and racial segregation we see in America today?
5. What attitudes have you encountered that are different from your own, regarding affordable housing and vouchers programs (from the media, from politicians, from friends, from neighbors, etc.)? Where do these attitudes come from?
6. What kinds of challenges might someone face who, like millions of American families, is spending over 50% of their income on housing?
7. Why should we value and prioritize the integration of our communities?
8. Have you ever participated in volunteer or advocacy work surrounding the issues of housing and economic segregation? What did it look like? How did you get involved?
9. There are many ways to get involved with efforts to combat homelessness. In addition to these organized opportunities, what can we do in our daily lives to treat people experiencing homelessness with dignity?
10. What would housing justice look like to you?

### **December Focus Topic - Criminal Justice**

1. What were your ideas about crime, prisons, and the criminal justice system growing up? Where did you get those ideas?
2. Do you have any personal experience with the police? What was it like? How did it shape your sense of trust in law enforcement?
3. How might it affect you if one of your family members was incarcerated? How might it affect a child to have an incarcerated family member?
4. Why is it important to care about America's criminal justice system?
5. How have you heard politicians talk about the criminal justice system? What impact does political rhetoric seem to have on our understandings of criminal justice?
6. In what ways do biases and assumptions affect both the way our criminal justice system operates and the way it is perceived?
7. What kinds of challenges might those exiting the prison system face?
8. How is the criminal justice system linked to other parts of American society in the past and/or present?
9. Have you ever lived near an incarceration facility? How did you feel about it? Why is the location of a prison significant?
10. What kind of power dynamics are at play in the criminal justice system? How does that reflect the broader power structures in American society?

### **November Focus Topic - Politics & Government**

1. Have you ever known someone who ran for political office? Have you ever considered running for a political office? Why or why not?
2. What do you think makes a good politician?
3. How were you educated to think about government growing up? What was the concept of government that you were taught at home and at school?
4. How do assumptions and biases play into the often extreme partisanship of American politics? What steps can we take to begin breaking these down?
5. Do you remember the first time you voted? How did you feel about it? What motivated you to do it?
6. Have you ever directly engaged with politics (e.g. canvassing for a candidate, attending a debate, participating in a protest, etc.)? What did that look like? What did you learn? Would you do it again?
7. How have your identities (e.g. race, gender, sexual orientation, class, religion, etc.) shaped the way you experience and engage with politics?
8. What do 'politics' mean to you?
9. Have you ever had a political conversation with someone whose views differed from you? What did it look like? What do you think makes for fruitful political discussion?
10. What is your source of hope for American politics? After this recent election, how can we begin to move forward with both realism and positivity?

### **October Focus Topic on Education**

1. How was your first day of high school? (How did you feel? What were your expectations? What was the setting like?)
2. What factors made it challenging for you to be successful in your high school environments?
3. What factors in your high school community allowed you to thrive as a student?
4. How was your high school experience different from students in other schools and communities that you know? Why were your experiences different?
5. If you were a high school teacher, what are the things you want your students to walk away with from their high school experience?
6. What are some assumptions and stereotypes of Chicago public schools that you wish to explore or challenge?
7. If you could go back and change one thing about your high school education, what would it be and why?
8. What educational issues do you most frequently hear about from politicians and from the media? What issues or groups are sometimes left out of the popular discourse on education?
9. In what ways (beyond being a student or teacher) have you, or someone you know, been directly involved with a school (e.g. school council, PTA, coaching a team, etc.)? Was it a meaningful way to engage?
10. How might you want to contribute to creating the type of school community on the south side where students can thrive?