

March 2026

THE LONGEST TABLE®

Thriving Communities



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT





312

“The question comes down to impact. Can I actually make a difference? And am I given the bandwidth to do so?”

MARYAM BANIKARIM

MARKETING EXPERT



Maryam is a marketing expert who has shared her talents with some of the most notable brands in the country, including Hyatt and NBC. She spoke about how to use mission, strategy, and creative energy to drive growth and fulfillment. She is someone who

NYC IS DEAD FOREVER. HERE'S WHY

Published on August 13, 2020



James Altucher [in](#)

Founder at "The James Altucher Show" podcast

875 articles

Four Years Ago

An Idea

Imagine

if we gathered
with our neighbors

•••



Maryam Banikarim 🌱

Chelsea (W23-8th-W21-10th) • 5 Apr



Imagine if we gathered like this, with our neighbors here in NYC. The neighbors we've met these past 2 years as we stayed in place and those we've yet to know. If they can do this Cairo we can do this here. I've always thought of NY as the ultimate community.

Chelsea Longest Table
2022 | 500+



'The Longest Table' Lights Up West 21st Street

500 neighbors share a lunchtime meal in Chelsea

LARA MOSKO CHELSEA / | 18 OCT 2022 | 12:11



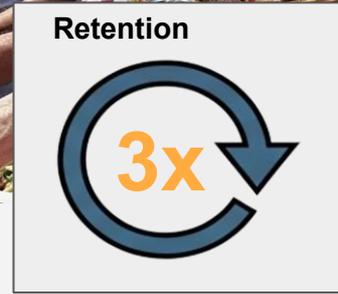
Lunch on the street. Photo: David Axelbank

A Neighbor in California, Raised Her Hand

Protocol (toolkit + 5 hrs of coaching)

They organized their first table: 2023

Overdale, CA, Longest Table



Chelsea Longest Table: 2025 | 2,000+

The New York Times

NEW YORK TODAY

This Block Party Brings People Together. A Lot of People.

The Longest Table in Chelsea is an annual potluck that attracts hundreds and creates a sense of community, participants say.

Listen to this article · 8:54 min [Learn more](#)

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By James Barron

Oct. 3, 2025

Good morning. It's Friday. Today we'll look at a potluck block party that's about more than the food. We'll also get details on two big infrastructure projects that appear to be caught in political crossfire from the federal government shutdown.



“I almost didn’t come. I recently lost my husband and I was anxious about coming alone.”

- Participant Longest Table

**A stranger said, “Come sit with us.”
Everything changed.**

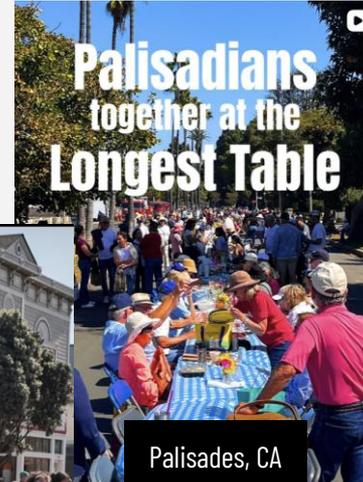
Six On One Day: Sunday, Oct 6, 2025



Chelsea, NY



Chicago, IL



Palisades, CA



Winston Salem, NC



Fort Bragg, CA



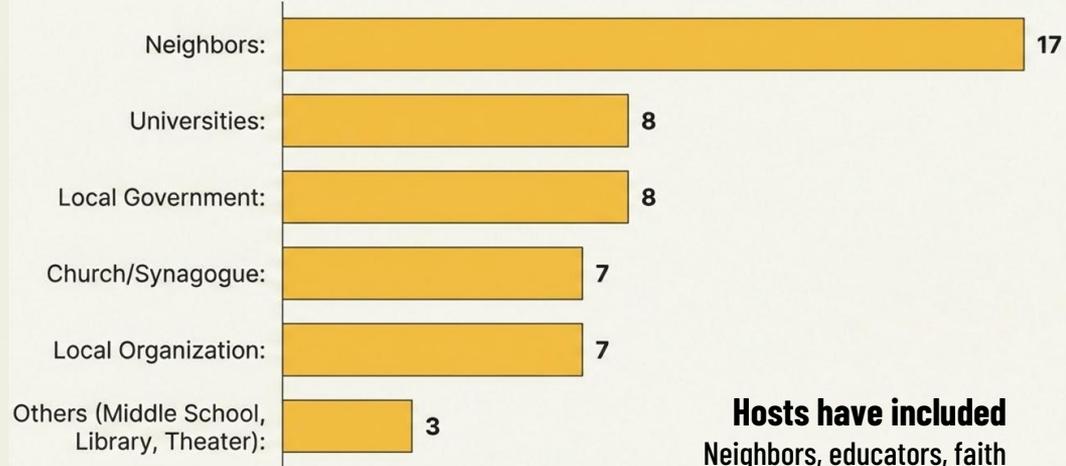
SF, CA

50 In US Alone: Just in 2025



Range of communities

Dense urban neighborhoods (Chicago), mid-sized (Oklahoma City), smaller/regional hubs (Bellingham, WA)



Hosts have included Neighbors, educators, faith leaders, local organizations, & civic institutions.

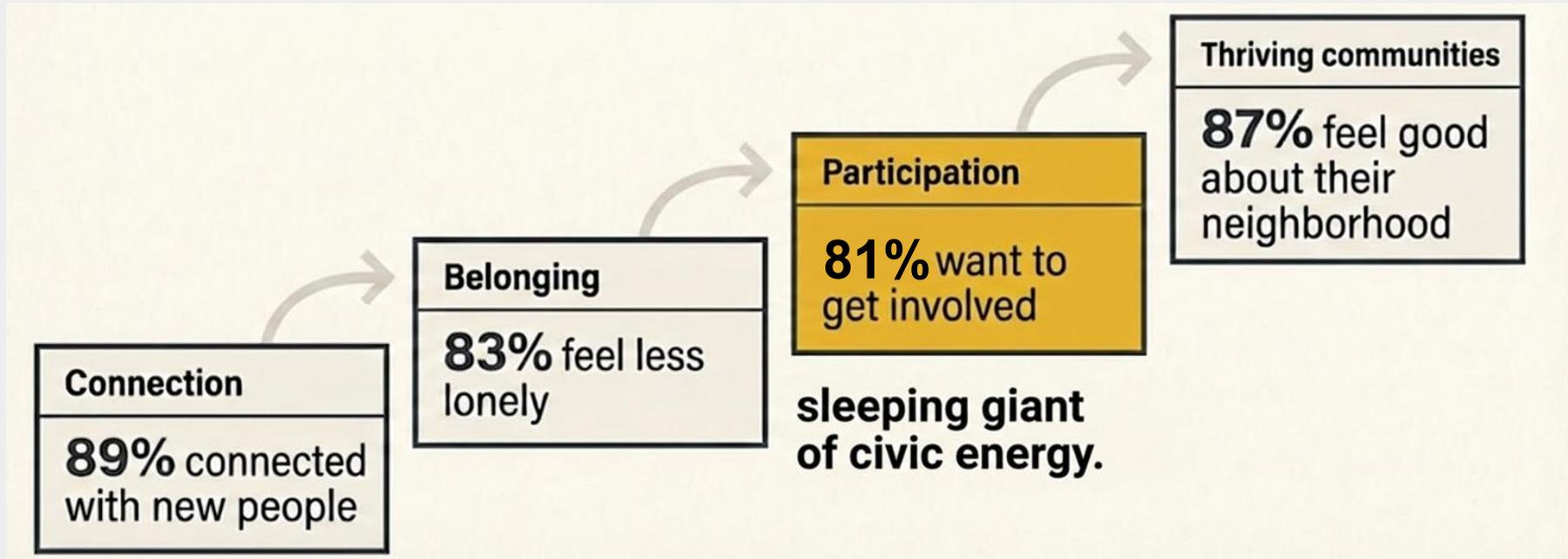
Inbounds from 800+ hosts, from around the world

An aerial photograph of a university campus. A long, narrow table is set up on a paved walkway, stretching across the frame. A large group of people is gathered around the table, some standing and some sitting. The walkway is flanked by green lawns and a red running track is visible on the left. The text "THE LONGEST TABLE" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image. The word "LONGEST" is significantly larger than the other words.

THE LONGEST TABLE

[Play Video](#)

A Solution to Loneliness & Civic Engagement



We take people from 'lonely' to 'active' in a few hours.

America Faces An Existential Crisis

- Trust → DECLINING
- Loneliness & division → SURGING
- Civic participation → FREEFALL
- Isolation blocks other solutions

Don't know neighbors? Don't
vote. Don't volunteer. Don't fix.

TRUST IN DECLINE

- **Institutions: 28% confidence (Gallup)**
- **Neighbors: 44% (down from 52%, Pew)**

LONELINESS & DIVISION SURGING

- **44% trust most neighbors, down from 52% (Pew 2025)**
- **1/3 Adults Lonely (57% Gen Z)**

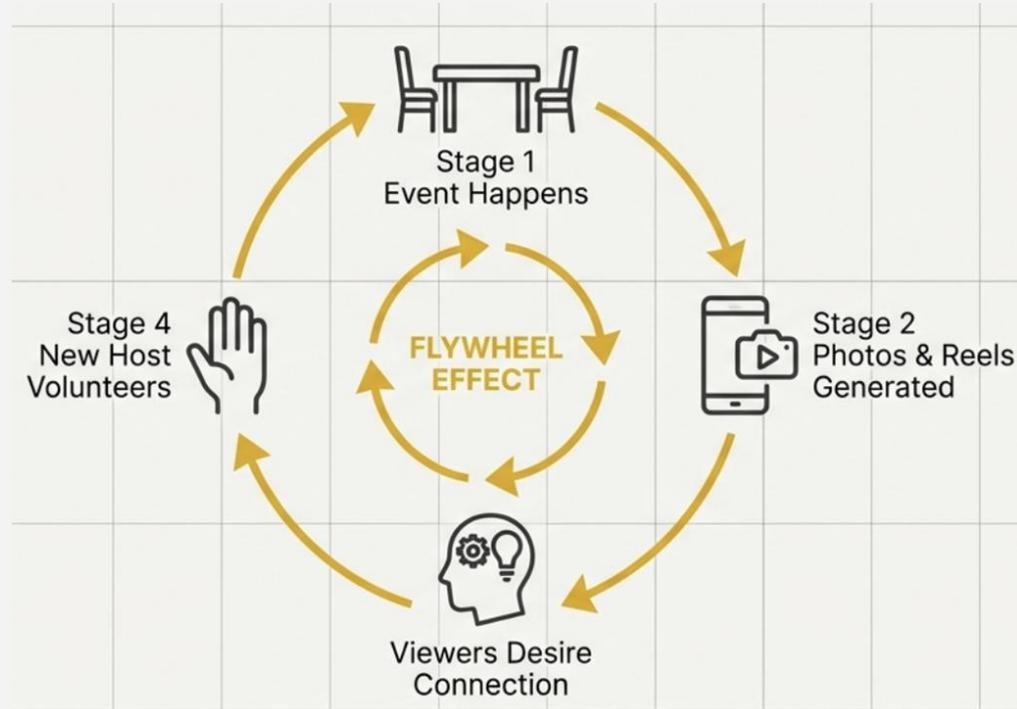
CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN FREEFALL

- **Voting down 20% (2020 to 2022)**
volunteering 28%, events 44%—historic lows (American Survey Ctr)

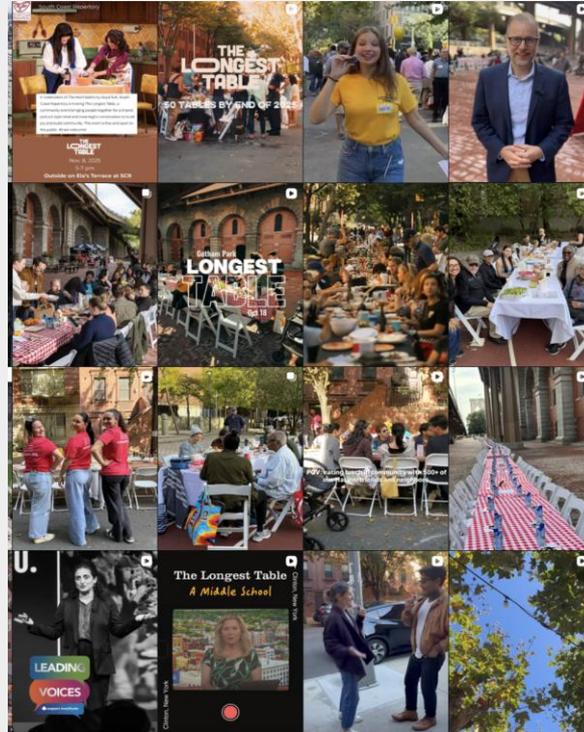
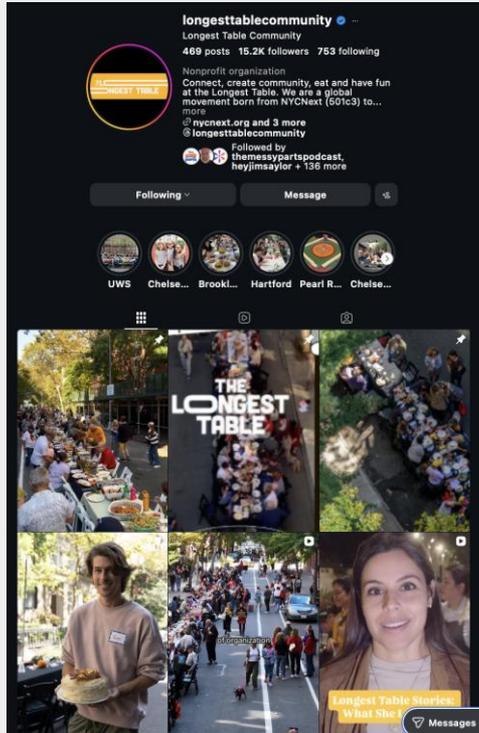
A Movement That Is Growing Organically

- Rebuilding trust isn't a nice to have—it's the foundation on which everything else gets built.
- Trust = INFRASTRUCTURE.

Infrastructure in the
Form of a Potluck



Storytelling Is The Engine: Social



Storytelling Is The Engine: Local Media



Formula For Success: Toolkit, Taskforce,



Roadmap

Here is a sequence of events - and we've organized a Longest Table as quickly as 4 weeks and as long as 4 months. It really depends on permitting and how quickly you can mobilize with your volunteers.

4 MONTHS OUT

Get Started

2 MONTHS OUT

Divvy Up Tasks

1 MONTH OUT

Promote & Problem Solve

1 WEEK OUT

Finalize Details

DAY OF EVENT

Enjoy The Moment

POST EVENT

Share & Get Feedback

Resources

Review the guidelines, information, and resources that we have compiled for your Longest Table.

- NYC Permits & Insurance
- Marketing Materials
- Example 'Day Of' Program
- Example Events & Materials

Marketing Materials

Below are links to some marketing materials you can download to customize and make your own. Alternatively, you can design your own content (asked for event materials, and event is provided for free).

Brand Assets

([e.g. logo, t. font, color palette](#))

Organizing Invite

([e.g. email, social, flyer](#))

Marketing materials

([e.g. email, social, card, flyer](#))

RVPF system

([e.g. excel, google](#))

Example 'Day Of' Program

Setting a clear timeline for activities and guests helps set expectations. Below is a timeline on how to run the event.

- 10:00 AM Table & chair delivery + walkthrough with Police Dept
- 10:30 AM Table & chair setup
- 11:00 AM Welcome/information desk opens
- 11:30 AM Event begins
- 12:30 PM Remarks/performance(s) (optional)
- 1:00 PM Event ends
- 1:30 PM Table & chair breakdown + clean up
- 2:00 PM Table & chair pickup



FLC
LONGEST TABLE



"Host Notes"

The Protocol

Insight:

**We don't scale
events. We scale
the capacity to host.**



- 1. No Agenda**
- 2. Neighbor Owned**
- 3. Public Space Magic**
- 4. Conditions For Trust**
- 5. High Touch Support**
- 6. Repeatability**
- 7. Story Virality**

“

**What if we
gathered with our
neighbors for a
potluck, across
iconic bridges?**



**THE
LONGEST
TABLE®**

Thank You



**A world
where every
neighborhood
feels like
home—where
neighbors
trust, belong,
and are able to
act together**