

Dining with Purpose

Survey Insights from the Fall 2024 program

www.moreincommon.com/us

**More in
Common**



Overview

Dining with Purpose and More in Common US partnered together in the summer of 2024 to conduct pilot survey testing for the fall dinner series.

The purpose of the surveys was to study the effect that the Dining with Purpose series had on the participants. We wanted to know if participants felt like they were able to connect and learn from people from different socioeconomic backgrounds, if they felt a greater sense of responsibility to participate in community projects, and if they felt a sense of belonging at the series—in addition to other questions.

The topline results are presented in this deck.



Executive Summary

- A majority of participants felt a sense of belonging at the Dining with Purpose dinner series.
- 9 out 10 said that they learned something new from other participants, and 86% agree that they were able to find common ground across differences.
- Following the end of the series, 75% said that they felt closer to their local community; 75% agree that they have a personal responsibility to help reduce food insecurity in Houston, and 81% said that they felt inspired to community action.
- When asked what they would say to people considering joining the next cohort, many expressed how they felt like they had built a strong community through the series and that they had learned a lot. Many also said: “Do it!”



Methods

Survey #1: This online survey ran from August 23- September 17, 2024. Respondents were asked 20 questions that were split between open-ended (7) and closed-ended (13). Twenty-three people completed it. The point of the survey was to assess feelings of belonging at Dining with Purpose series as well as initial feelings of warmth and attitudes towards people who had socioeconomic backgrounds different from their own.

Survey #2: This online survey ran from November 7-29th, 2024. Respondents were asked 20 questions that were split between open-ended (7) and closed-ended (13). Twenty-one people completed it. The point of the survey was to assess if participants felt like they were able to form community with the others in the program and if they felt motivated to participate in community service work.

Insights from the surveys

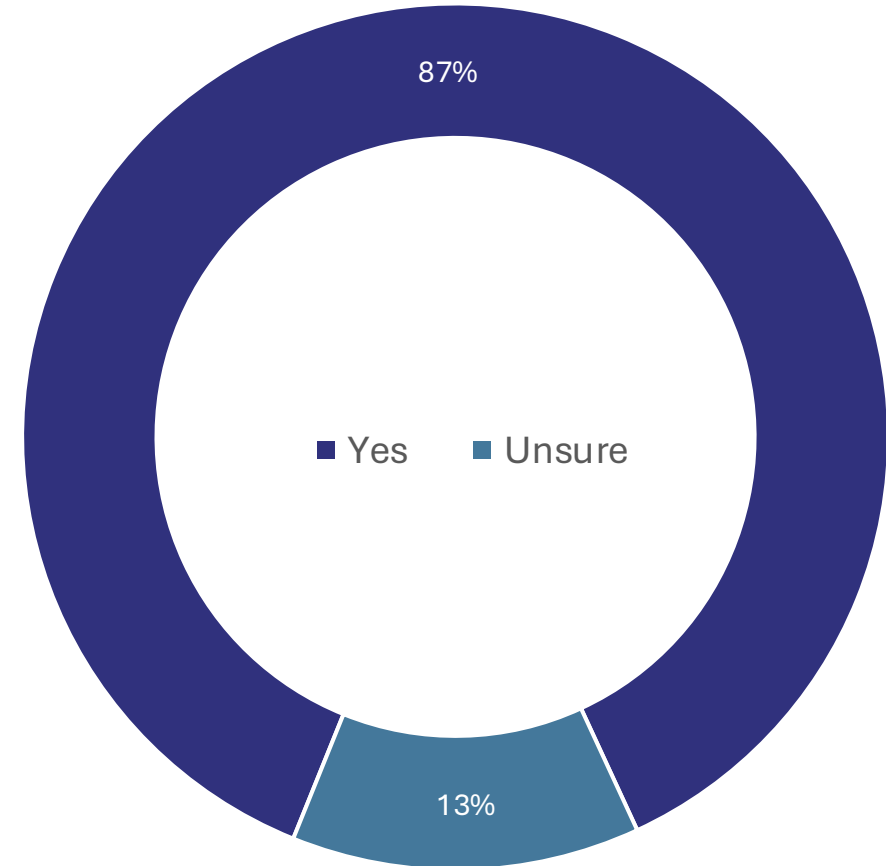




BELONGING

87% felt belonging
at the Dining with
Purpose Dinners

Question: Do you feel like you belong at the Dining with Purpose Dinners? (Yes/No/Unsure)



Note: Zero respondents selected "No."
Source: Survey #1



BELONGING

“I feel like I belong with others at the dinners because we are all open to having the uncomfortable conversations. I also think that there is no label behind each of us or "fancy" title. From my own experience, last dinner I was sitting next to a CEO and never in my life had I met a more humble CEO. The fact that I could have casual conversations with people without expectations or preset expectations.”

“First we find common ground, demonstrate honest intent for common good (above self-interest).”

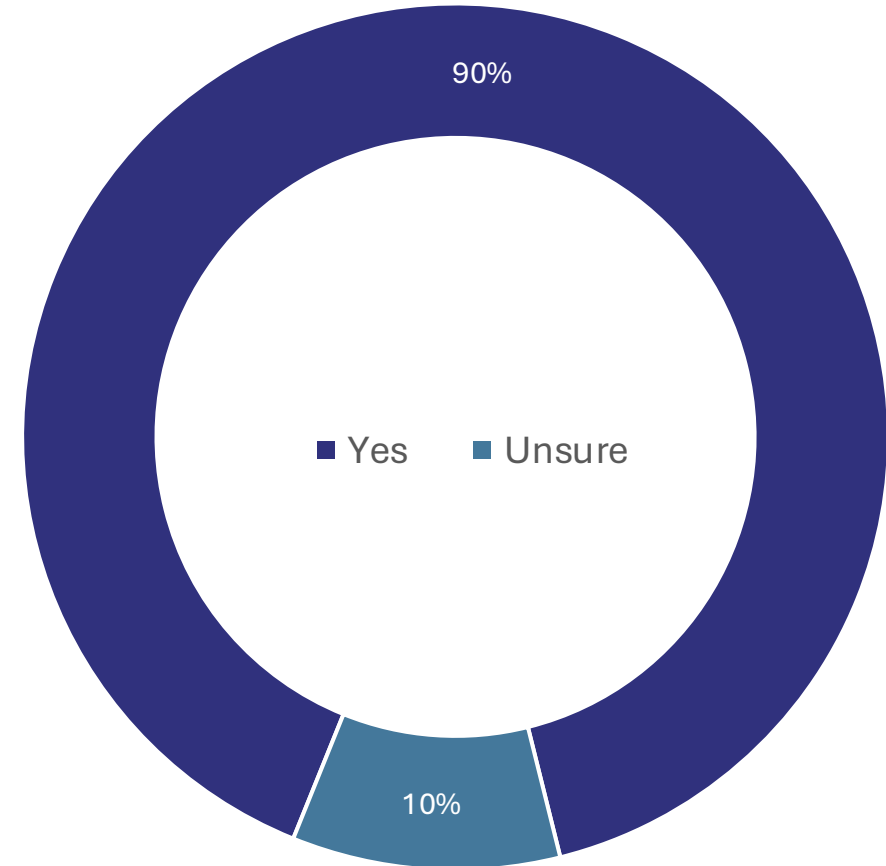
“You get to meet wonderful people who you share an ultimate goal with: helping others.”



LEARNING FROM OTHERS

9 out of 10
learned something
new from other
participants in the
series

Question: *The Dining with Purpose series deliberately brings together people from different backgrounds to work together towards ending food insecurity. We would like to know: did you learn anything new from the other participants in the series? (Yes/No/Unsure)*





LEARNING FROM OTHERS

"I learned, although we are different, we have much more in common than differences."

"I learned so much from other participants. Having people from different backgrounds brought so much insight to my view on how to deal with my own job, especially when connecting with families I work with."

"I'm a stay home mom, and I think most of the people from the class are well educated people with a degree, and I never felt that they were looking at me differently than the other people. They treated me the same. I always felt welcomed. I learned that it does not matter where you come from you treat everyone the same."

Question: The Dining with Purpose series deliberately brings together people from different backgrounds to work together towards ending food insecurity. We would like to know: did you learn anything new from the other participants in the series? Please explain...

Source: Survey #2

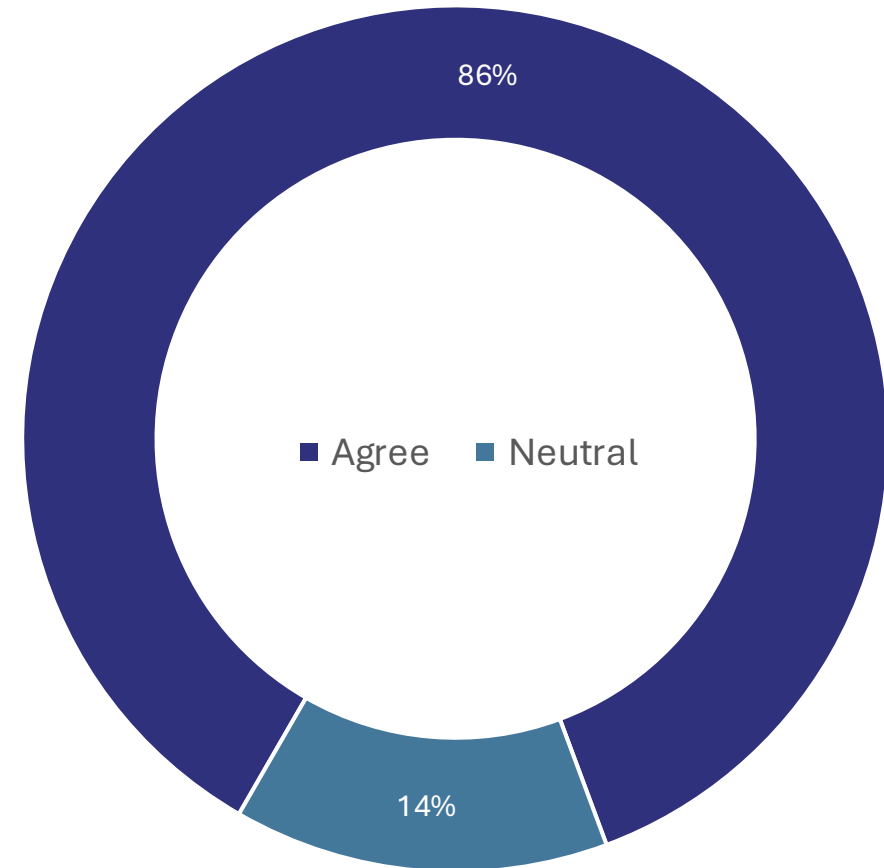


FINDING COMMON GROUND

86% Agree
that they were able to
find common ground
across differences

Question:

Please how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:
*The Dining with Purpose series helped me find common ground with
people who have different beliefs.*





FINDING COMMON GROUND

"I think I am more liberally minded than some of the other participants, but I also have a lot more privilege than others. It was eye-opening."

"It was a open form of dialogue, folks didn't necessarily take a stance from the beginning on anything because we went through a variety of topics."

"I was in a space with people that I probably would've never communicated... having access to [this space] allowed me to change that and make a ton of connections..."

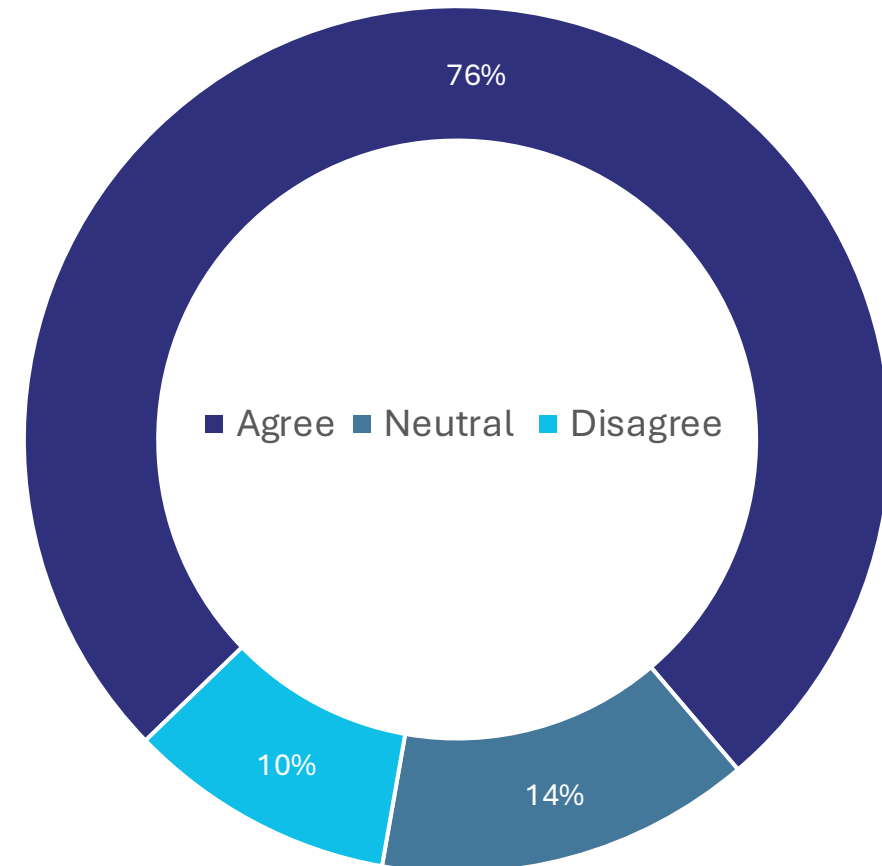


LOCAL COMMUNITY

76% Agree
that they felt more
connected to their
local community

Question:

Please how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The Dining with Purpose series made me feel more connected to my local community.

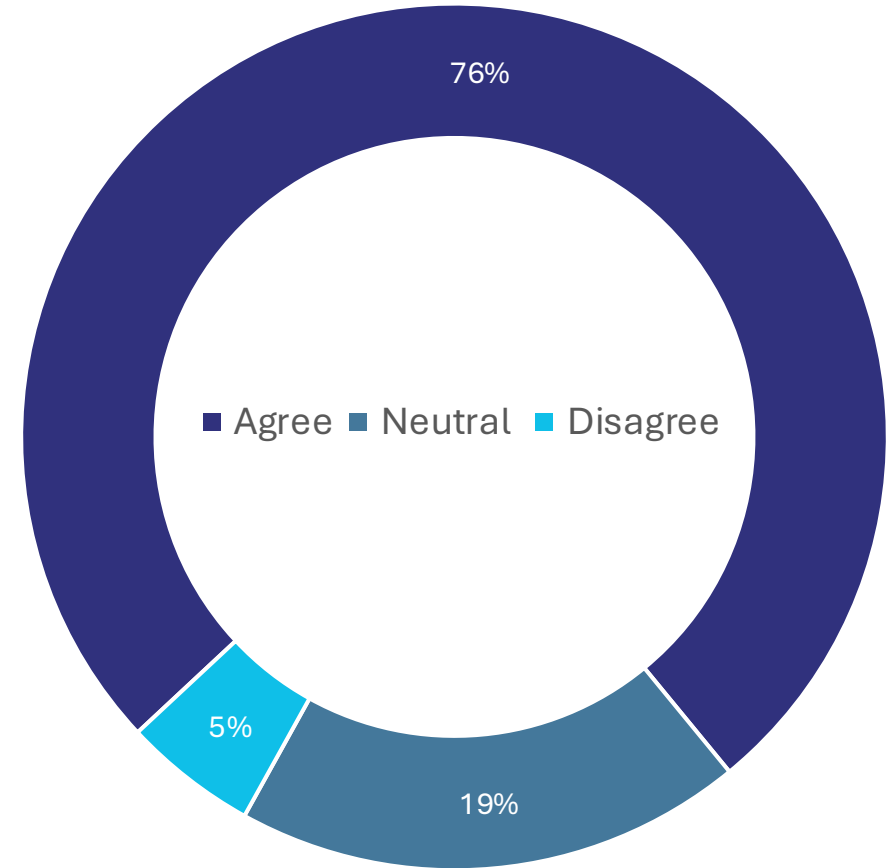




PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

76% Agree that they have a responsibility to eliminate the need for food banks

Question: Please how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: *I have a personal responsibility to help eliminate the need for food banks in Houston.*



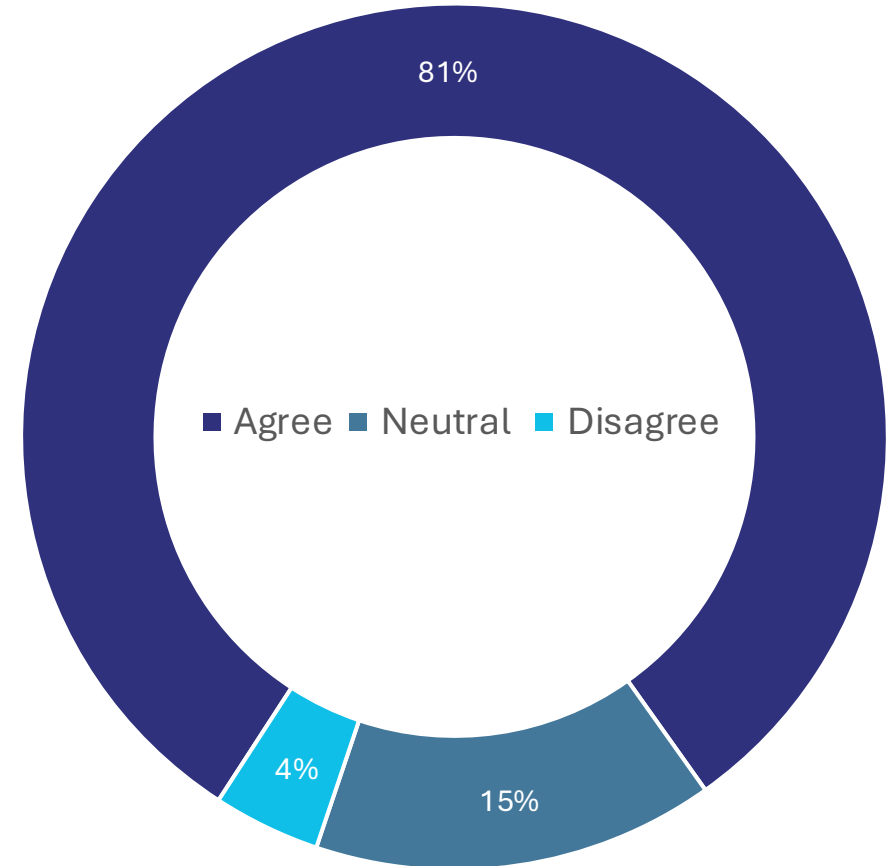


COMMUNITY ACTION

81% Agree
that they felt inspired
to community action

Question:

Please state how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: *The Dining with Purpose series has inspired me to become more engaged in community action.*





COMMUNITY ACTION

“Dining with purpose exposed me to the reality that there are people who care for society. It was refreshing to encounter so many people who were grounded in community work.”

“I signed up for a field trip to take my students to Kid's Meals!”

“I have to stay connected to my cohort members and we plan to integrate services as much as we can”



Preliminary analysis points to an increase in positive feelings towards people from different SES backgrounds following the completion of the series.*

Question: When you think about people in your community who are from a different socioeconomic background than you, how much do you feel...

- *Uncomfortable or comfortable around them?*
“Comfortable” + “Very comfortable”: 74% survey one, 81% survey two
- *Insecure or confident around them?*
“Confident” + “Very confident”: 61% survey one, 76.2% survey two
- *Negatively or positively towards them?*
“Positive” + “Very positive”: 66% survey one, 90.5% survey two

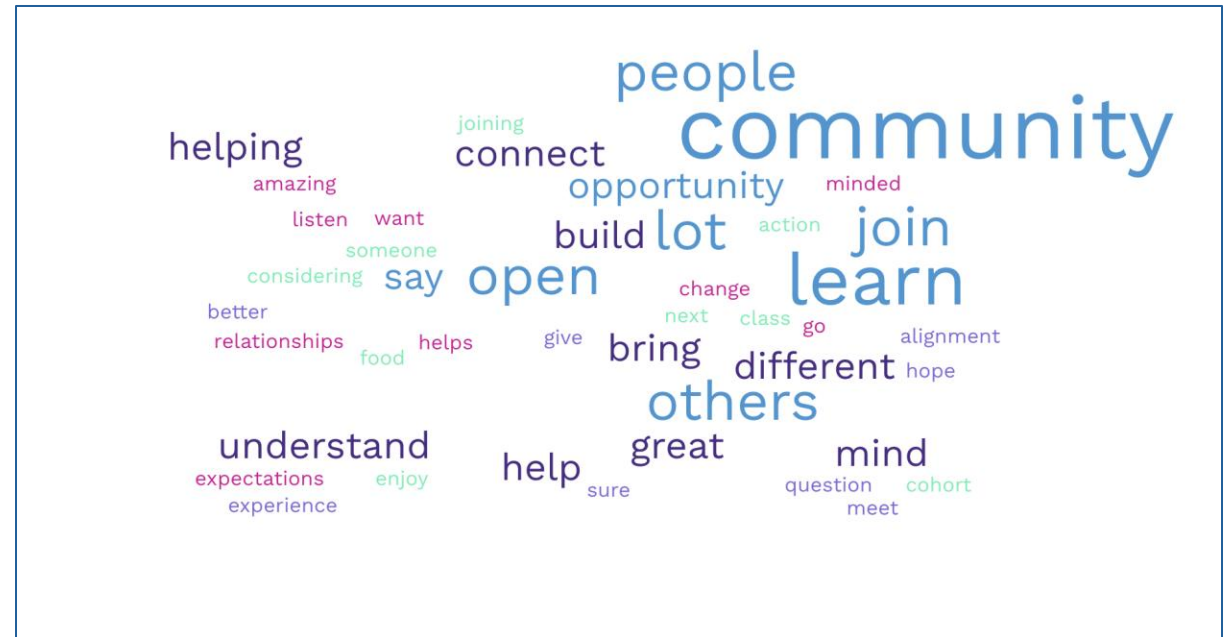
*Note: Some people who completed survey 1 did not complete survey 2. Also, these differences are not statistically significant due to very small n-sizes. Nonetheless, these trends point to the possibility that peoples' feelings did change throughout the course of the dinner series. More research would be needed to confirm this effect.
Source: Survey 1 & 2



WORD CLOUD RESPONSES

What would you say to someone considering joining the next cohort?

“Community” and “Learn” were the top words used



Question: What would you say to someone considering joining the next cohort?
Source: Survey #2



WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS?

"Do it!"

"Do it! It will help you become more knowledgeable on different agencies and people that can help you build your community up and learn so much about changes that need to happen with advocacy."

"You should do it. 😊 "

"I would strongly encourage them."

Learnings for the next cohort





LEARNINGS

Few participants expressed the need for anything to change. Those that did wanted the program to focus more on action-oriented projects.

"Please remember that folks are showing up with the intention to aim at addressing food insecurity. Although leadership, power structures and diversity of individual lived experience are relevant they need to be tied back to food insecurity."

"Redirect the attention or topics back directly with food insecurity with action driven projects."

"Look into more action-oriented working groups for solving things."



**More in
Common**