



LONGER TABLES

The "Mile Long Table" Event Draws Thousands to Celebrate Connection and Community in Downtown Denver

DENVER – July 29, 2025 – Longer Tables, a non-profit organization that believes in the power of shared meals to connect people, welcomed over 3,400 community members at the first-ever “[Mile Long Table](#)” - a 5,280-foot long table at the Auraria Campus in downtown Denver on Saturday, July 26, 2025. This inspirational event, co-presented by Southwest Airlines® and Serendipity Catering, created a welcoming space to demonstrate the power of connection.

“The community response to our first Mile Long Table has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Tim Jones, founder and executive director of Longer Tables. “It’s really powerful and deeply encouraging to hear our guests talk about how eager and appreciative they are to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Our goal is creating meaningful connections—and the table makes it all possible.”

Hundreds of volunteers set up and served guests at the "Mile Long Table," a lunch prepared by Serendipity Catering that featured ingredients reflecting and celebrating the legacy of the Auraria neighborhood. Ancient grains symbolized the indigenous tribal nations of the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Ute. Beans paid tribute to the Chicano Aurarians who lived in Auraria for over a hundred years before being displaced in the 1960s. Serendipity Catering sourced over two tons of produce and protein for the meal through a generous donation from Shamrock Foods.

Here are remarks from the 2025 “Mile Long Table” participants:

- “The energy at the Mile Long Table was infectious,” said Lexi Muller, senior manager of corporate responsibility at Southwest Airlines. “At Southwest, we believe that community is more than a place; it’s the heart of what brings us all together. Southwest is honored to have played a role in creating a space for thousands of Denverites to come together to connect and to celebrate community.”
- “The Mile Long Table truly brought our mission at Serendipity Catering to life - leveraging the power of gathering for a meal with kindness towards people, whether familiar or not. Yesterday, powerful connections were made between strangers and strengthened between friends and family. I couldn’t be happier with how it turned out. See you all next year!” shared Laura Zaspel, founder and chief executive officer of Serendipity Catering.
- “We were delighted that we came and took part in the Mile Long Table,” said community member Diana Samet. “We met lots of folks and just felt a warm spirit of coming together as a community. Thanks for helping bring us all together.”

Photos and video from the “Mile Long Table” can be found [here](#). All content can be sourced to Longer Tables.

Southwest Airlines Demonstrates "Mile High Heart" for Moments of Reconnection

As a surprise element to the "Mile Long Table," co-presenting sponsor Southwest Airlines went above and beyond to showcase its Mile High Heart initiative that supports communities throughout the Denver Metro Region by facilitating reconnection moments for selected participants. The airline flew in several guests to reconnect with friends and family members at the historic community event. The selected participants received free round-trip airfare to Denver International Airport and lodging to take a seat at the table - reuniting with loved ones and creating new connections. Event attendees were encouraged to nominate someone they would like to reconnect with during the event registration process.

"I was so excited to be at the Mile Long Table and grateful to Longer Tables and Southwest Airlines for making all of this happen," said Kim Evans, who flew to Denver from Philadelphia to reconnect with Hannah Kahan, a native of Philadelphia who recently graduated from the University of Denver. "I've watched Hannah grow up. For her to nominate me to join her at the table and celebrate her accomplishments in life, is truly a blessing." Evans expressed joyfulness for the new friendships made at the event and plans to stay in touch with her tablemates.

In 2013, Longer Tables began its mission to cultivate connection and belonging through shared meals. From cross-cultural community tables of 100+ people to city-wide events and creating connections inside companies, the organization has hosted more than 100 gatherings in five states to help cities, organizations, businesses and neighborhoods create cultures of connection and belonging. The organization plans to continue the momentum by making the "Mile Long Table" an annual event. Additional tables are in development to celebrate the nation's 250th and Colorado's 150th birthday in 2026. Anyone interested in hosting or attending a future Longer Table event can learn more at longertables.org.

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About Longer Tables

Longer Tables is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered in the Mile High City of Denver in Colorado. Believing in the power of the long table to connect people, celebrate diversity and be an equitable place of solidarity, the organization is committed to seeing cities, organizations, companies and neighborhoods become places where humans experience true connection and belonging. Since 2013, over 4,500 guests have connected at over 100+ tables in communities and companies. Learn more at <https://www.longertables.org/>.

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