



EVERYBODY EATS LUNCH: A COMMUNITY PROJECT IN OMAHA

- Strangers are paired up to have lunch.
- Local restaurants donate delicious lunches.
(and get enthusiastic mentions in our press)
- We inspire people of different stripes in Omaha to get to know each other.

Why lunch? Why now?

As we live in an age of social media, some critics suggest we're now living in all our own echo chambers, surrounded by people only like ourselves.

In an ideal world, every person would be able to talk to anyone face-to-face. Sometimes they just need the excuse.

A conversation over good food is that excuse.

Everybody Eats Lunch is a non-profit project that sets up strangers to have a one-on-one meal. It's a way to create deeper, analog connections in community. We launched in Omaha in November 2011, in partnership with Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, and plan to be in operation for 12 months.

Who is running the project?

We are 100% volunteer run, with an operating budget of exactly zero. The project was started by Christy Chan, artist at the Bemis Center and daughter of Chinese immigrant restaurant chefs (Christy's family ran the oldest Chinese takeout restaurant in Washington D.C. until 2014)

We do this because we believe in great food and the power it has to bring people together. It's a great time in our culture for seeing past each other's labels, and simply slow down to get to know each other.

There's nothing like a good meal to break the ice and feel more connected to a stranger.

HOW RESTAURANTS CAN PARTICIPATE

Block 16 was our first restaurant sponsor (see recent press in Encounter Magazine and local radio stations) and we are excited to include more.

How to participate:

1. **Say yes! Donate meals for 2 -3 lunches.** We have a minimum of two lunches because we prefer to have a small select group of restaurants whose praises to sing,

versus too many to mention in press)

2. Before and after the lunch, we will plug your participation in local press. **You don't have to do anything besides donate food.** Besides doing formal newspaper and radio interviews, we post to Twitter, Facebook and all social media accounts.

3. Sometime in 2018, we'll call you with an order and a volunteer will come pick up the food. (the time and day can be flexible, to avoid your busy peak hours) The food can be eaten on-site or we will take it to go, up to you.

*While we hope the project is motivating, we 100% understand you are first a business, and you are welcome to think of this as an opportunity for easy, grassroots advertising.

**Above all, we believe food is a glue for relationships. And this is about relationships, so having the right restaurant partners is very important to us.

***Gold star participant: If you would like to designate a table as the "Everybody Eats Lunch Table" for a week, we would be thrilled.

PRESS SO FAR

"Artist brings strangers together in Omaha," Encounter Magazine, December 2017, feature story by Tara Spencer. Available soon at local newstands.

"Bemis Center Explores Empathy," October 2017, KVNO Omaha Radio, by Corbin Hirschhorn.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Everybody Eats Lunch was started by Christy Chan, a California-based artist recently in residency at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha. Chan's work examines class issues in America, often through a lens of nuance and empathy.

To talk directly with Christy, please feel free to contact her directly.

Email: Hellochristychan@gmail.com

Phone: 415-570-1515

www.christychan.com

"I believe we are all hungry. Hungry to get past polarizing political conversations and get more personal.....I come from a restaurant background. My family, first generation Chinese immigrants living in Washington, D.C., had a mom and pop restaurant which welcomed all. This was before Chinese restaurants were on every corner, and many people were still scared of food that seemed foreign. I saw first-hand the way food breaks down walls, and how a conversation over food is a gateway to another world or a person's life, their stories and their sense of humor. I believe in those conversations and I believe that despite the constant hum of social media and our so-called connected lives, we are hungry for more connection and perhaps hungry for the conversations that aren't happening." - Christy Chan

THANK YOU FOR READING!!!!