

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS INITIATIVE**  
**MONTHLY REPORT (October 18<sup>th</sup>) ECON. DEVELOPMENT**

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**Submitted by:**

Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement

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**&**

The Center for Male Engagement | Community College of Philadelphia

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Submitted on:

November 1, 2017

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In fulfillment of the commitments made to the  
City of Philadelphia's  
My Brother's Keeper Initiative-Philadelphia (MBK Philly)



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forged by a partnership between the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME) and the Community College of Philadelphia's Center for Male Engagement, the Community Conversations Initiative is a platform to engage Philadelphians and leaders who work for / with our communities. The initiative is a monthly forum where community members and leaders discuss challenges, opportunities, and solutions that address dismantling inequities that impact the lives of men and boys of color in the city.

The Structure:

- 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm      Networking with resources who are invited to disseminate materials and engage audience members.
- 6:00 pm – 6:50 pm      Panel Discussion (usually 3-4 panelists with a moderator)
- 6:50pm – 7:00 pm      Audience completes survey
- 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm/ 45pm      Community talks about the theme of conversation (split in groups of 10 if crowd is large or use of all audience members if group is small).

In general, the Community Conversations Initiative focuses on discussions that include but are not limited to:

- Education
- Justice
- Health/Wellness
- **Economic Development**

The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement is dedicated to closing the opportunity divide for men & boys of color.

The Community College of Philadelphia values community engagement and service as an important part of its mission. The institution addresses broad economic, cultural and political concerns in the city and beyond through a variety of community service initiatives.

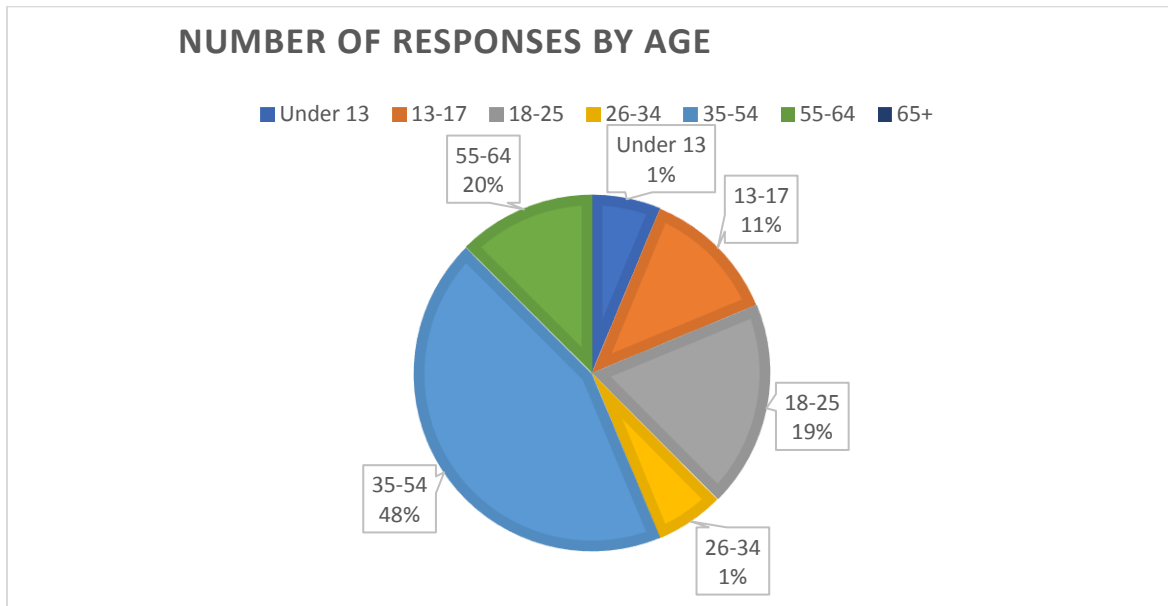
HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES (resource tables present at Conversation):

- Community College of Philadelphia  
[www.ccp.edu](http://www.ccp.edu)
- City of Philadelphia – Commerce Division

**PANELISTS : MODERATOR – JACK DRUMMOND - GUEST PANELIST: JONATHAN TODD, DIRECTOR OF TALENT, COMMERCE DEPARTMENT – CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, KAMAL RHODES, FOUNDER OF ART IS THE CULTURE, MAURICE “FRESH” THOMAS, FOUNDER OF FRESH ENTERTAINMENT.**

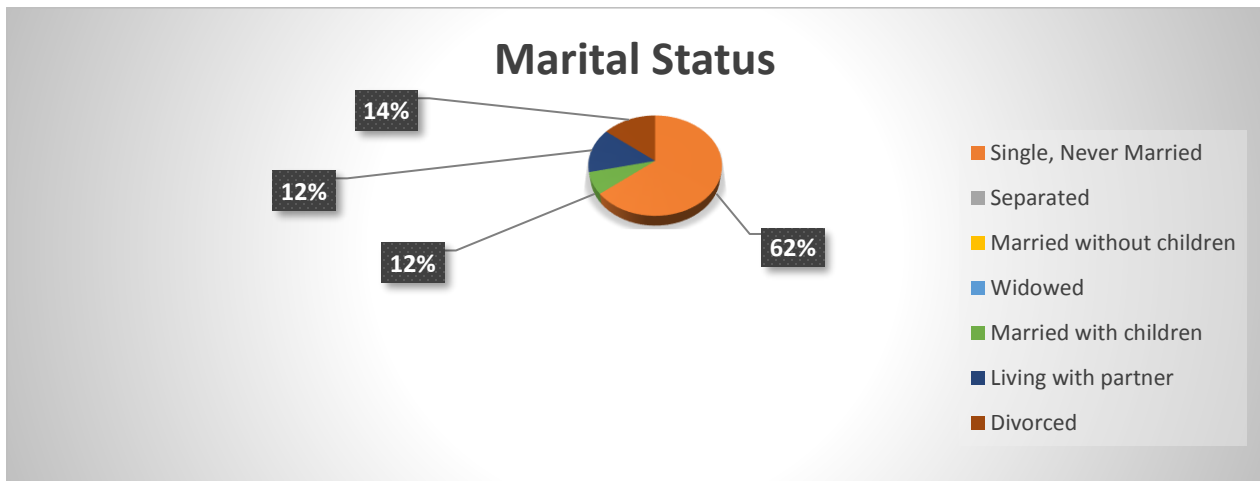
**SURVEY RESULTS (FROM PARTICIPANTS):**

**AGE RANGE: (SEE CHART)**



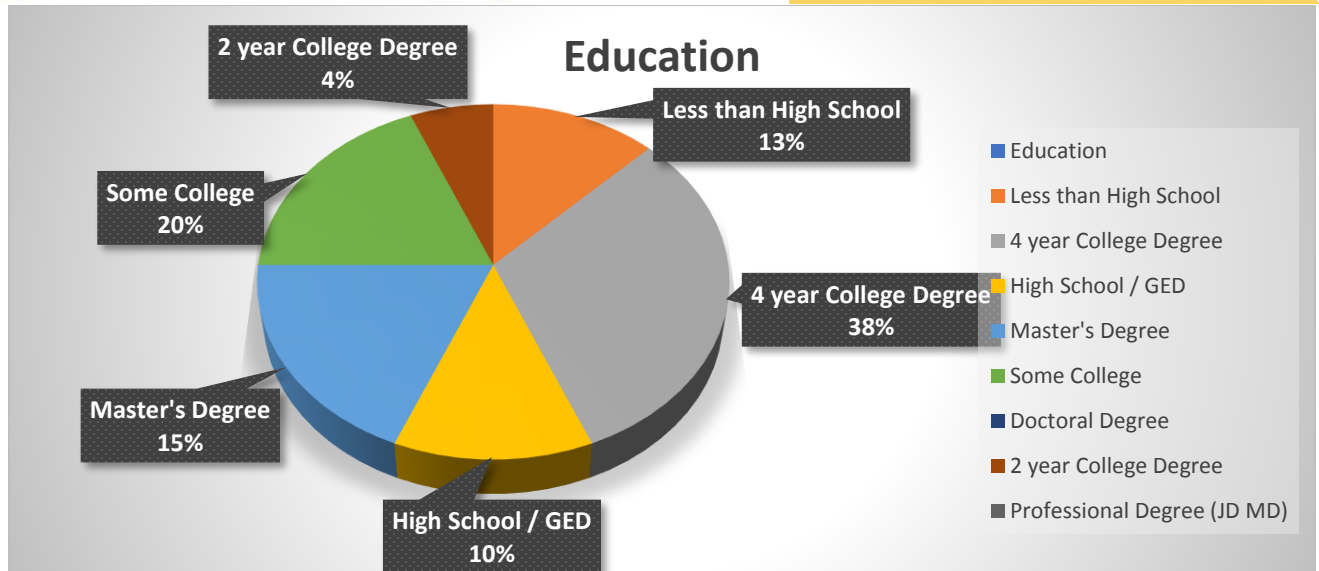
- *(Age Range chart - figure 1) The majority of people in attendance in February were 35-54 yrs. old.*

**CURRENT MARITAL STATUS: (SEE CHART)**



- *(Marital Status Chart – figure 2) The majority of people in attendance were Single (never married).*

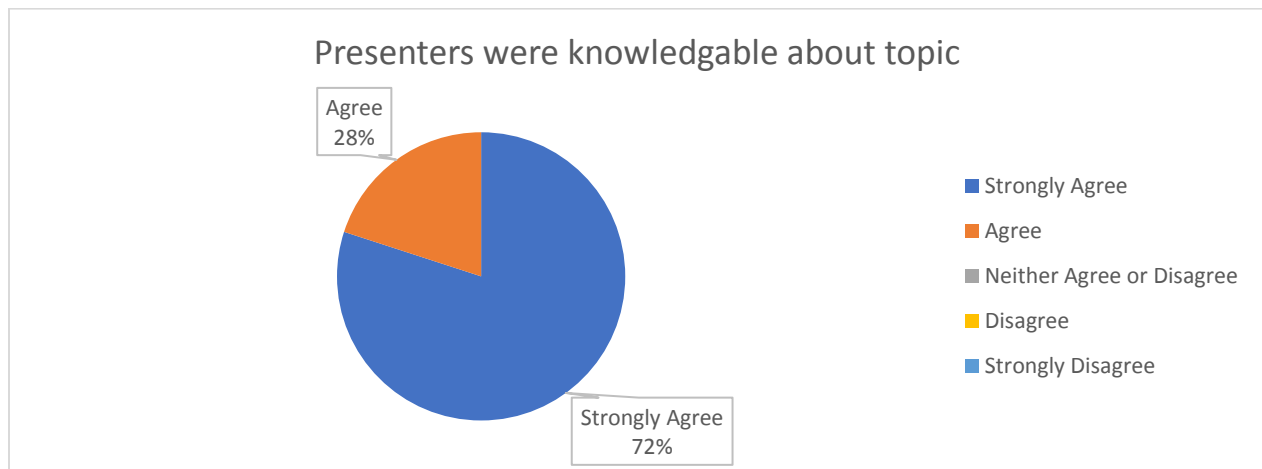
**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: (SEE CHART)**



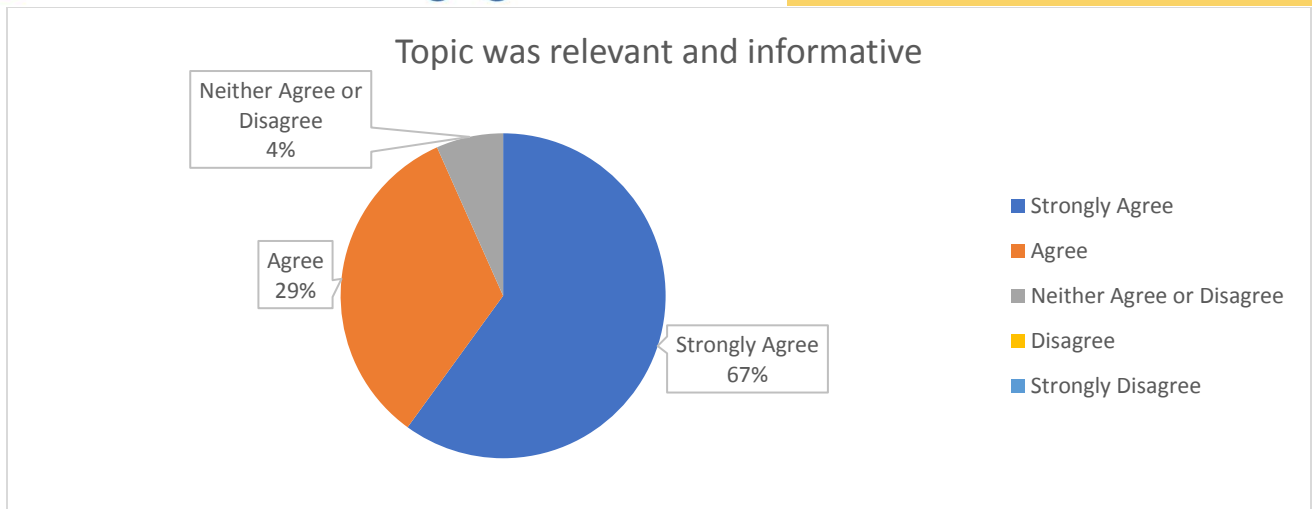
- (Education Chart – figure 3) The majority of people in attendance earned a 4 year College Degree

LOCATION IN PHILA. -BASED ON ZIP-: (SEE CHART)

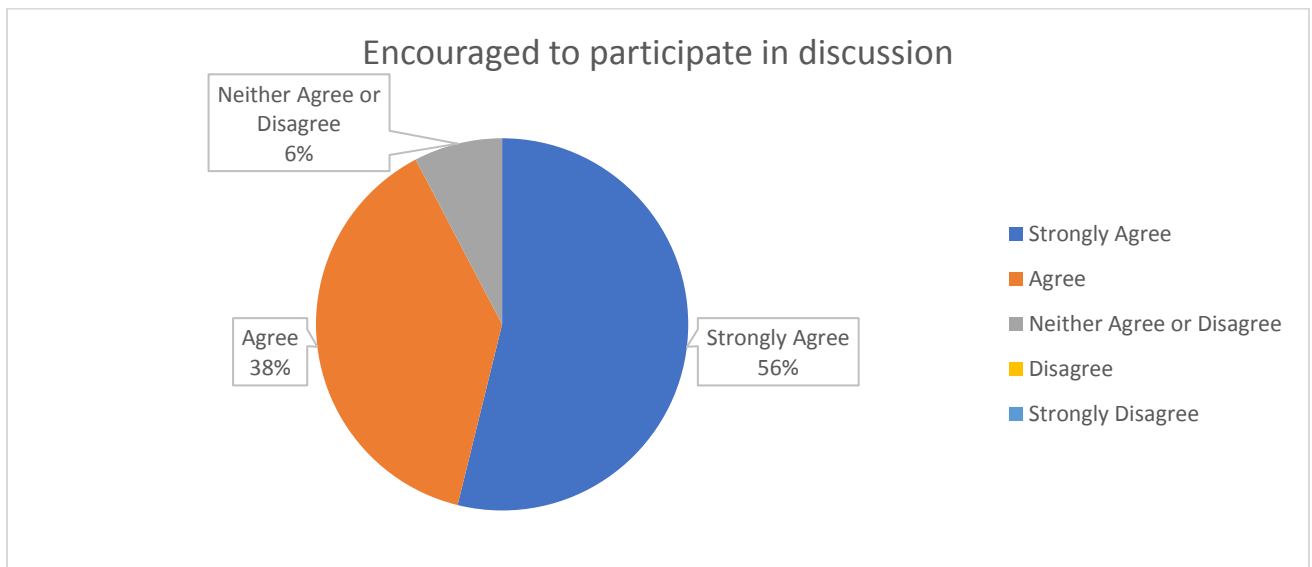
**RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY**



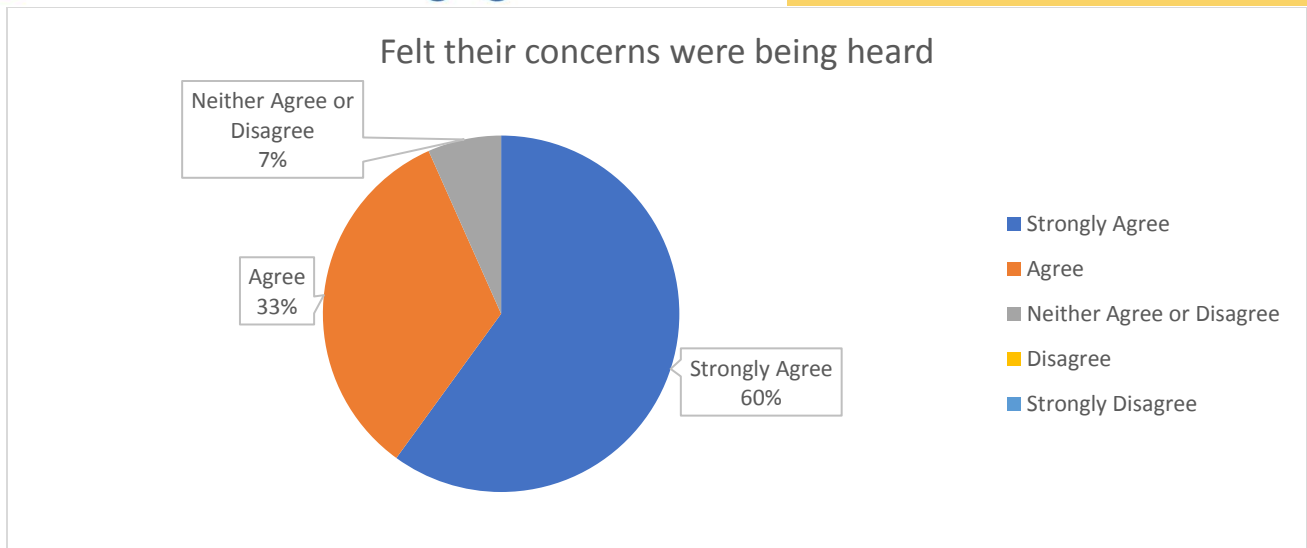
- (Presenters Knowledge chart – figure 4) The majority of people in attendance agreed and strongly agreed that the presenters were knowledgeable about the topic



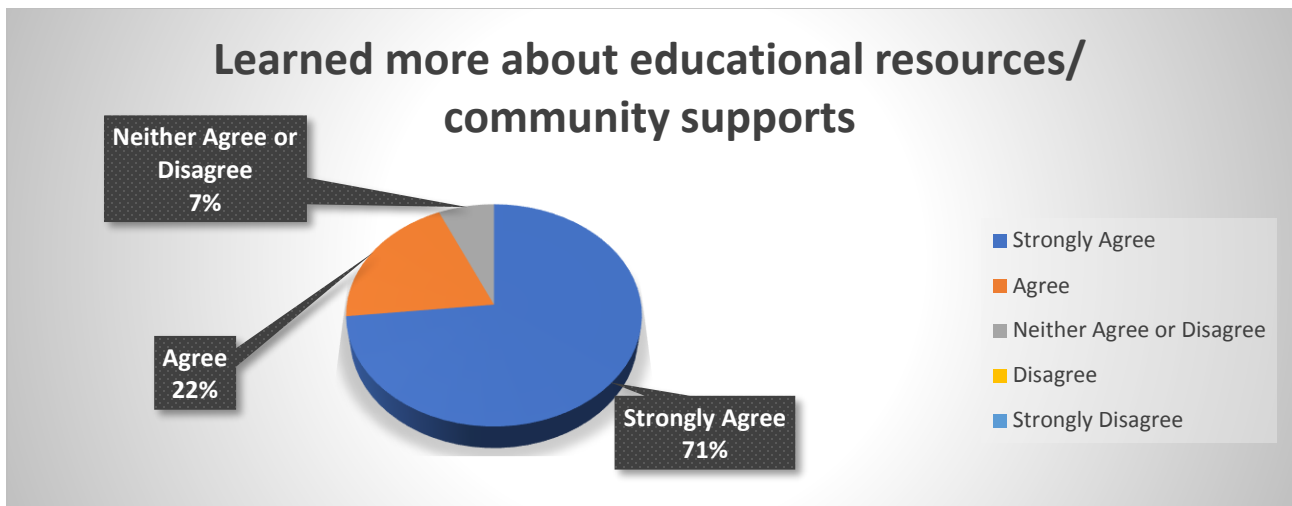
- (Topic relevance chart – figure 5) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that the topic was relevant and informative.*



- (Encouraged to participate chart – figure 6) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they were encouraged to participate in the discussion.*

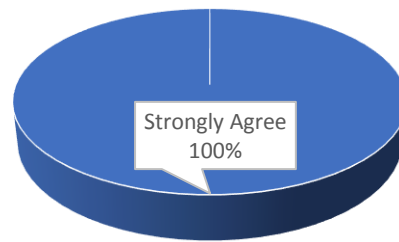


- (Concerns were being heard chart – figure 7) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they “felt their concerns were being heard,” but some community members disagreed that they were being heard.*



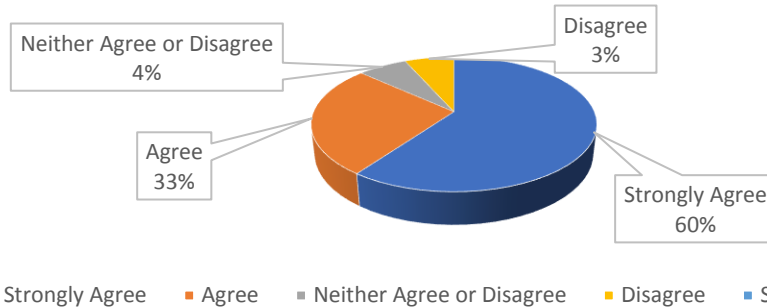
- (Econ. Development Resources chart) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they learned more about educational resources, but some participants disagreed that they learned more about educational resources.*

### Attend CCI Again



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

### Invite Someone to attend future conversations



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

- (Attendance & Recommendations to Community Conversations Charts – figures 9 & 10) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they would attend again and recommend folks to future community conversations.*

Based on the Needs, Resources, and Solutions brought forth by the attending Community members, we will continue to gather suggestions and recommendations to report out information to stakeholders in efforts to advance the academic, economic, health & wellbeing, and social/ criminal justice awareness towards a transformed narrative for men and boys of color in the city of Philadelphia. Please carefully read the suggestions as each are given by a fellow Philadelphian who support men and boys of color in the city and realize that we are better, together.

The Following is a list of results from the community regarding their Needs, Resources, and Solutions around the theme of the discussion (Econ. Dev.)

Needs	Resources	Solutions
Community Based Businesses that are understanding to the needs of the community	City of Phila	Have more engagement from city officials in our communities
Helping our community to get certifications to start business in the city	City of Phila	Have large organizations sponsor community events
	Counseling agencies	More activities for neighborhood youth
Holistic approach; trust; desire	We need resources	Financial literacy classes
Building up local community venues. Promoting ways for the community to put their money together and invest in their own.	City Council	Provide workshops or classes that will help community members to become independent.
Career opportunities		
	West Phila. and Nicetown CDC's	Keep activities in plain English
Financial literacy teaching embedded within the educational systems; low or no cost working	City of Philadelphia	



spaces for entrepreneurs; neighborhood based skills training centers.		
	Need more resources	Video game tournaments.
Ways to engage the community	How do we get start up information	Creativity from all parties. Money isn't everything
Starting a business 501 C3		