



ENSURING THAT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS
TO AFFORDABLE, NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND
INFORMATION TO MAKE HEALTHY DECISIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Food Trust's Night Market Philadelphia Awarded \$150,000 in support from Knight Foundation to Promote Civic Engagement and Inclusion

Funding allows the city's favorite street food festival to create connections among diverse Philadelphia neighborhoods through community relations and technology

To foster connections between new Philadelphians and long-term residents, **The Food Trust's Night Market Philadelphia** will develop new strategies for increasing civic engagement, deepening social inclusivity across the city's diverse neighborhoods and creating economic opportunities for new residents and immigrant populations. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is investing \$150,000 to support these efforts.

"Night Market has a proven record of bringing people together in neighborhoods around local food and culture, while providing a platform for local food entrepreneurs to start or grow businesses. In its next phase, The Food Trust will work to build on this success — inviting in more community feedback, building new partnerships and programs, and integrating technology into its offerings," said **Patrick Morgan**, Knight Foundation program director for Philadelphia.

Support from Knight Foundation will allow The Food Trust to build new relationships with local organizations and engage with neighborhood residents in new ways, including through a community-focused Night Market app.

"Now more than ever, it's important for us to lift up Night Market's mission by creating spaces for folks to gather and celebrate food, culture and new ideas," says **Yael Lehmann**, executive director of The Food Trust. "At our events, everyone has a place at the table."

Next, on July 1, Night Market is joining forces with **Wawa Welcome America** and the **Spruce Hill Community Association** for a one-of-a-kind food truck festival to jumpstart Independence Day weekend in West Philadelphia.

Later this season, Night Market will revisit two much-loved festival locations: Roxborough (2016) on August 10 and the Italian Market (2012) on October 5. *Night Market's 2017 season is supported in part by Green Mountain Energy; learn more at greenmountainenergy.com.*

A catalyst for sustained community engagement, Night Market provides an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and build a lasting customer base, while also creating jobs, tax revenue and real economic growth. During its first five years, an estimated \$8.8 million of direct spending has occurred at all Night Market

events, generating an economic impact of \$13.7 million in the city of Philadelphia. To learn more, read the 2016 report [*5 Years of Night Market Philadelphia: Enlivening Communities, Empowering Entrepreneurs, Creating Culinary Destinations*](#).

About Night Market

Night Market Philadelphia is the city's premier street food festival, a roving food event spotlighting Philly's best ethnic and regional restaurants and food trucks. Inspired by Asia's lively outdoor markets, our events celebrate up-and-coming neighborhoods and showcase Philadelphia's diverse food and drinks and vibrant arts and culture scene. The first Night Market took place in East Passyunk in 2010. Since its debut, The Food Trust has hosted 25 Night Markets, attracting nearly 500,000 attendees and more than 300 food vendors to neighborhoods across the city, including Northern Liberties, West Oak Lane, Mt. Airy, Fairmount, South Street, Old City, Chinatown and many more, and attracting local and national attention to Philadelphia's food scene.

To host this roving festival, The Food Trust has worked with community partners throughout the city, including East Passyunk Business Improvement District, Mt. Airy USA, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corp., Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp., Northern Liberties Neighbors Association, Bella Vista United Civic Association, South Street Headhouse District, Old City District, South 9th Street Business Men's Association and more.

About The Food Trust

The Food Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1992, strives to make healthy food available to all. Working with neighborhoods, schools, grocers, farmers and policymakers, The Food Trust has developed a comprehensive approach that combines nutrition education and greater availability of affordable, healthy food. To learn more about The Food Trust, visit thefoodtrust.org.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.