

2024 National Conference Agenda – Volunteers

All times below are Central. Agenda content subject to change.

Constituent Liaison: Melanie Hausmann, Director of Annual Fund & Gift Planning
mhausmann@americanorchestras.org, 646 822 4008 / cell 202 316 9807

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

5:00pm-6:30pm **Volunteer Council Awards Reception *by invitation only**
Offices of Walter P. Moore, 1301 McKinney, Suite 1100

7:00pm-9:00pm **Volunteer Networking Dinner *Register and pay by May 28**
Location: Xochi, located in the Marriott Marquis, Level 1

Join your fellow volunteers at Xochi with Oaxaca-inspired food and drink, prepared by nationally recognized chefs. Cost: \$60 includes two drink coupons and a taco bar.

Thursday, June 6, 2024

8:00am Volunteers Coffee, provided by the League of American Orchestras

8:30am-9:00am **Conference Overview and Welcome**

Connect with your fellow volunteers and enjoy a presentation from the Classic Award winner.

Speakers: Laurie Skjerseth, President-Volunteer Council; Darlene Clark, Volunteer Track Conference Chair, Houston Symphony League; Simon Woods, President and CEO, League of American Orchestras; John Mangum, President and CEO, Houston Symphony; Mary Fusillo, President, Houston Symphony League

- 9:00am-9:30am **Classic Award Presentation**
- Discover the secrets to a sold-out \$1M+ event honoring a city's cultural history
- Symphony League of Kansas City, MO: Royal Gala, Let's Have a Ball*
- 9:30am-9:45am **BREAK**
- 9:45am-12:00pm **Gold Award Presentations**
- Learn how to create a multi-faceted strategy to energize volunteer committees and create a leadership pipeline, discover successful themed fundraisers, and leverage strategic partnerships within your networks.
- Santa Rosa Symphony League: Festival of Masks*
Madison Symphony Orchestra League: Parties of Note
Houston Symphony: Growing Membership - Focus on What Works
Charleston Symphony Orchestra League: Ladders to Leaders
- 1:00pm-2:30pm **Rethink, Reimagine, and Reboot the Volunteer Experience**
- Learn more about the creative things we can do to attract and retain volunteers – and tips for making those fundraising events even more appealing.
- Speaker: [Kay Sprinkel Grace](#), Founder and Principal, Transforming Philanthropy*

Friday, June 7, 2024

- 9:00am-10:15am **Recommendation: Elective Session:**
- [Music and Wellness: Optimal Outcomes and Best Practices in Houston's Texas Medical Center](#)
- 10:15am-10:45am **Gold Award Presentation**
- Houston Symphony League: Re-Imaging Auctions – Symphony Ball Auction 2023*
- 10:45am-11:00am **Houston Symphony Education Presentation**
- Speaker: Allison Conlan, Director, Community Engagement, Houston Symphony*

11:00am-12:15pm **Elective Sessions**

Recommendations:

[Global is Local: The New Music Diplomacy](#)

[Leaders Building Leaders](#)

[ROCO Performance Elective: Women Composers in Concert](#)

3:30pm-5:00pm **Networking: Connect with Your Fellow Volunteers**

Level 3, Kingwood A-B, Marriott Marquis

Moderators: Marena Gault, member, League Volunteer Council, Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Roger Gault, Chair, Dallas Symphony Orchestra

5:30pm-6:30pm **Volunteer Council 60th Anniversary Celebration *by invitation only**
Presidential Suite, Marriott Marquis

Saturday, June 8, 2024

10:45am-12:30pm **Strategic Planning Session**

Join us for an interactive session on crafting strategic plans tailored for orchestra volunteer groups, whether they operate independently or as part of a larger organization. Learn essential steps and collaborative approaches to develop impactful strategies aligned with the goals and vision of the orchestral community they support. Be sure to bring your mission statements from both your orchestra and your volunteer league.

Speaker: J.L. Nave, Principal, Nave Strategies

Notice: It is important to keep in mind antitrust rules governing competition that apply to this group discussion. While the agenda for this group includes discussion of a variety of issues that are crucial to orchestras' planning and strategies, the goal is not to agree on a single approach to these issues. With the benefit of analysis and discussion, each orchestra will be able to decide independently what course of action is best for its own organization. We ask you to avoid comments that relate to your orchestra's current or future plans for *ticket or event pricing (actual ticket prices, discount amounts), bargaining (including collective bargaining agreements or with vendors), or compensation.*