

Agenda

2025 National Conference Agenda – Executive Directors, Groups 5-6

All times below are Mountain Time. Agenda content subject to change.

Constituent Liaison: Karen Yair Ph.D, Vice President, Research and Resources

kyair@americanorchestras.org

The following agenda describes sessions specifically designed for the above-mentioned constituents. For a full listings of Conference events and larger sessions, please visit

<https://leagueconference.org/full-schedule>.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

8:00am-12:00pm [Tech Fair](#)

1:00pm-2:30pm **Constituency Meeting Block 1: Roundtable**

This peer-to-peer roundtable session will offer a valuable opportunity for all Group 5 and 6 orchestra Executive Directors to connect, exchange ideas, and reflect on shared experiences. For those new to Conference, it's also the perfect opportunity to get to know new colleagues and friends.

Join your peers to discuss what's working—and what's not—in your orchestra's world. Whether you're navigating staffing transitions, exploring new revenue streams, or tackling musician engagement challenges, this session is designed to foster open conversation, mutual learning, and practical problem-solving.

The roundtable will be facilitated by **Paul Jarrett**, President of the **Group 5 Leadership Team** and CEO of the **Akron Symphony**. He will guide the discussion and help surface common themes, insights, and strategies relevant to your work.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

3:30pm-5:30pm **Constituency Meeting Block 2: Strategic Budgeting for Sustainability**

As our orchestras navigate rising costs and uncertain revenue streams, smart and nimble financial planning is more important than ever. This session will explore how orchestras can identify the income and expense levers within their control, be alert to outside influences beyond their

control, build robust multi-year financial plans, and proactively address the cost structures required to sustain current operations. Drawing on nonprofit forecasting and budgeting strategies, we'll dive into practical approaches for incorporating contingency planning to support organizational stability in a shifting financial landscape. Whether you're preparing for the next fiscal year or thinking longer-term, this session offers actionable insights to help you plan for a sustainable and resilient future.

We are honored to have **Faith Raiguel** lead this session. With a distinguished career that includes her tenure as Chief Financial Officer of the **LA Opera**, Faith brings deep expertise in nonprofit financial strategy, planning, and sustainability. She is a long-standing faculty member of the League's **Essentials of Orchestra Management** program, is currently Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the **Silk Road Ensemble**, and formerly served on the board of **Street Symphony**.

Friday, June 13, 2025

10:15am-11:45am Constituency Meeting Block 3

10:15am-10:45am Latest Policy Updates

Stay informed on the federal policy issues that matter most to orchestras. In this timely session, **Heather Noonan**, the League's Vice President for Advocacy, will share the latest developments from Capitol Hill and federal agencies—covering topics such as arts funding, tax policy, education, visa processing for international artists, and nonprofit workforce legislation. Attendees will gain insight into how these policies may impact orchestras of all sizes and learn how to engage effectively in advocacy efforts at the local and national levels. Bring your questions and join the conversation on how public policy continues to shape the future of our field.

10.45am-11:45am Maximizing Board Engagement: Strategies for Accountability, Participation, and Fundraising

Board engagement is an ongoing challenge—and opportunity—for orchestras of all sizes. For medium-budget orchestras in particular, building a strong, active board can significantly influence organizational sustainability. This session explores practical strategies for deepening board involvement, from fostering a culture of accountability to navigating difficult conversations when expectations aren't being met. As other sources of contributed income face increasing uncertainty, board fundraising has become more essential than ever. Learn how to re-engage disengaged members, promote meaningful participation, and

equip your board to confidently support fundraising efforts. Drawing on examples from organizations with strong board performance, this session offers fresh approaches to strengthening board relationships and maximizing their impact on your orchestra's future.

We are delighted to welcome back **David Styers** to lead this session, following his highly successful presentation on orchestra governance at Midwinter 2024. David is Director of Learning and Leadership Programs at the League of American Orchestras and a longtime Senior Governance Consultant with BoardSource, with over three decades of experience in nonprofit governance, board strategy, and cross-sector leadership training.

Executive Directors, Groups 5-6 Constituency Meetings have been generously sponsored by 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.*

Please also note that all discussions during this meeting are confidential and should not be shared outside the group.