

2026 National Conference Agenda—Executive Directors, Group 3-4 Orchestras

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

Constituent Liaison: Caen Thomason-Redus, Vice President, Inclusion and Learning
caentr@americanorchestras.org
646 822 4064

The following agenda describes sessions specifically designed for the above-mentioned constituents. For a full listing of Conference events and larger sessions, please visit <https://leagueconference.org/full-schedule>.

Monday, June 1, 2026

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

1:00pm-1:30pm Welcome and Reconnect

We gather again to welcome new colleagues, reconnect with friends, share updates, and set intentions for our time together at Conference.

1:30pm-2:30pm Successful Board Engagement

Effective board engagement strategies help EDs cultivate strong, productive relationships with their governing boards by aligning leadership vision, clarifying roles, and fostering a culture of shared accountability. This topic explores best practices for communication, board development, and leveraging trustees' expertise and networks to advance your orchestra's artistic mission and long-term organizational sustainability.

Speaker: TBD

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

3:00pm-5:00pm Constituency Meeting Block 2

3:00pm-4:00pm Leveraging Electronic Media

From full-scale recordings and streaming productions to shorter length social media content, we will explore the full range of opportunities for generating compelling programming that engages and grows audiences. Part of this session will include practical discussion of the Integrated Media Agreement.

Speaker: TBD

4:00pm-5:00pm

Building Your Revenue Infrastructure I: AI-powered Revenue Growth

Delve into how artificial intelligence is already opening new opportunities for arts organizations to drive revenue growth. With current industry examples ranging from personalized audience engagement and targeted marketing campaigns to dynamic ticket pricing and donor cultivation strategies, orchestras of all budget sizes can find ways to work more efficiently and uncover new streams of earned and contributed income.

Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

11:15am-12:45pm Constituency Meeting Block 3

11:15am-12:15pm

Building Your Revenue Infrastructure II: Building High-Performing Development Teams

This session will cover best practices in team structure, the strategic leadership role of the Development Director, and proven approaches to retaining talented fundraising staff in a competitive environment. We will also examine long-term financial sustainability through endowment planning and preparation, as well as effectively activating the board of directors as essential partners in advancing your orchestra's contributed income goals.

Speaker: TBD

12:15pm-12:45pm

Moving Forward

Reflect on what has meant the most this week and what we need to explore together in the year ahead. How can this constituency and the League best support you and your orchestra?

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 consult the [League one-page Antitrust Overview](#) for more information, available at www.americanorchestras.org.