

2026 National Conference Agenda—Education and Community Engagement

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

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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>.

Sunday, May 31, 2026

6:00pm Optional EdCE Constituency Dinner

Following the separate **Pre-Conference Half Day Meeting** on May 31st, all EdCE constituents are welcome to join for an optional self-pay dinner. You don't need to have attended the Pre-Conference meeting to join! Please **[RSVP for EdCE constituency dinner here](#)**.

Monday, June 1, 2026

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

1:00pm-1:30pm Welcome, Introductions, and Table-Setting

We're so excited to welcome you to our Baltimore Conference! Let's take a moment to get acquainted and break the ice.

*Speaker: **Terry Wolkowicz**, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra*

1:30pm-2:30pm Creatively Engaging EdCE Audiences

This session explores creative approaches for deepening audience engagement at community, family, and school concerts through activities that take place both before and during the performance. Presenters will share practical strategies that invite audiences to participate in performances by listening more deeply, noticing more, and responding creatively. The session will also include a collaborative workshop where participants will brainstorm and develop active engagement ideas tailored to their concert programs.

Facilitators: **Dave Aulenbach**, Artis—Naples, **Laura Reynolds**, San Diego Symphony, and **Terry Wolkowicz**, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

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

3:00pm-4:00pm Measuring Impact of Orchestral Engagement

Measuring and communicating the impact of education and community engagement work can be challenging. In this interactive session, participants will exchange evaluation tools, assessment approaches, and strategies for sharing results. Small-group discussion will focus on what works, what can be adapted and scaled to different projects and ecosystems, and how to communicate impact in ways that are practical and meaningful across a range of settings.

Facilitators: **Jessica Ingraham**, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and **Cierra Wallace**, Bozeman Symphony

4:00pm-5:00pm Roundtables

These concurrent table discussions will offer participants an opportunity to engage in two rounds of conversation on topics we will select together in Baltimore.

Table moderators and topics to be determined.

Facilitators: **Joanna Borowski**, New Jersey Symphony, and **Orzella Matherson**, Akron Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

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

11:15am-12:15pm Refining and Committing to Community Engagement

As orchestras continue to evolve, community engagement must be intentional and purposefully designed to create a meaningful impact and reflect the communities they serve. Building on the earlier *Orchestras Deepening Relevance* session, this interactive session will work through realistic scenarios and practical strategies for moving beyond transactional programming toward sustained relationships. Through roundtable discussions, participants will share experiences, exchange ideas, and collaborate on approaches that advance impactful, community-centered work.

Facilitators: **Allison Conlan**, Houston Symphony, and **Marianne Rice**, Jacksonville Symphony

12:15pm-12:45pm **Wrap Up, Next Steps, Continuing the Conversation**

What ideas will we take home with us, and what conversations do we want to explore in the coming months and in Atlanta next year?

*Facilitators: **Jessica Ingraham**, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and **Terry Wolkowicz**, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra*

Education and Community Engagement Constituency Meetings are made possible by Lori Julian / The Julian Family Foundation

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