

MINUTES

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION: VOLUNTEERISM

OCTOBER 2, 2024

- I. Welcome
 - A. President Kathy Leibrand introduced David Styers, head of education for the League of American Orchestras
- II. Presentation
 - A. Changes in volunteering
 1. Recent survey on state of volunteers for orchestras
 - a. 4% same or steep decline
 - b. 27% no change
 - c. 60% some increase or steep increase
 - B. Points of Light survey; volunteers want:
 1. More flexible opportunities
 2. Single day jobs
 3. Younger people view volunteering differently; fun for me as opposed to noblesse oblige
 - C. Benefits of volunteering
 1. Volunteering addresses increasing isolation
 2. Needed more and more to address society's needs
 3. Builds trust and empathy
 4. Helps people understand value
 5. Good for mental health
 6. Make friends
 7. Volunteers are generally happier than general population
 8. Offers physical activity
 - D. Best practices
 1. Offer professional skill building
 2. Team building
 3. Engage youth while coaching and mentoring
 4. Service enterprise
 5. Single job can serve as entry to more engagement
 - E. Special days coming up
 1. Nov 23, family volunteer day
 2. Dec 5, international volunteer day
 - F. Suggested five action items
 1. Do something to celebrate the 12/5 international volunteer day
 2. Check your job descriptions; are they clear about the benefits of volunteering
 3. Plan something to celebrate International Youth Volunteer +25 in 2026; tie in with other countries?
 4. Work to integrate volunteers into the symphony's budget and structure
 5. Celebrate your volunteers' accomplishments, impact, etc; tie in with April volunteer week 4/20-26/25

III. Thank yous

A. Next conversation October 16