Women’s Symphony League
Austin Symphony Children’s Day Art Park

The Women’s Symphony League of Austin
Orchestra Size 3
MSA Population: 2,100,000
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Project Overview: Children’s Day Art Park is a joint collaboration between the Austin Symphony Orchestra and the Women’s Symphony League of Austin (WSL).

Project Description – Every Wednesday morning in June and July, hundreds of adults and young children flock to the outdoor Symphony Square amphitheater to participate in different activities related to The Austin Symphony Orchestra. Activities include an instrument petting zoo, musicians, dancers, mimes, storytellers and arts and crafts activities. Each child pays an admission of $.50, adults are free and lemonade is $.10/cup. Each child receives a balloon can participate in activities all morning for no additional cost.

Project Goals – The Children’s Day Art Park was designed to provide young children and their families an opportunity to interact with musicians and musical instruments. For many guests it is their introduction to Austin Symphony Orchestra educational programs and musical performances.

Project Timeline –
MARCH/APRIL: The Chair is selected by the incoming WSL President.
MARCH: WSL members sign up for placements within the organization, which includes Art Park.
APRIL: The Chair meets with Austin Symphony Orchestra staff to discuss the upcoming summer programs.
MAY: WSL members who signed up for this placement are contacted via email to sign up electronically for three shifts. Each shift is 8:30 -11:30 A.M. Members of the Austin Symphony Youth Leadership Council (YLC) are also contacted via email and invited to volunteer in return for service hours.
JUNE and JULY: Children’s Day Art Park occurs every Wednesday morning.

Financials: This is not a fundraiser. Children each pay $.50 to attend. Adults are free. Volunteers sell lemonade for $.10/cup. The money collected slightly offsets expenses but does not generate a profit. The nominal entrance fee allows people from diverse backgrounds to attend.
Collaborations or partnerships: The Austin Symphony Orchestra solicits partnerships with corporate sponsors. These organizations contribute volunteers and are welcome to bring in-kind donations. Such items have included sunglasses, fans and Blue Bell ice cream.

Volunteers: Each week there are approximately 9 WSL volunteers. There are also volunteers from sponsors, The Austin Symphony Orchestra and YLC. A volunteer may be asked to:
- Man the stroller valet
- Make and Sell lemonade for 10 cents a cup
- Hand out bottled waters
- Hand out balloons (often repeatedly as small children let go of them)
- Help with Arts and Crafts
- Assist children at the Instrument Petting Zoo

Successes: Each week there are throngs of guests waiting for the gates to open at 9:00 AM, despite the Texas heat. Many adult and teenage YLC volunteers share that they enjoyed the Art Park as a young child or caregiver and are excited to return to continue the annual event.

Potential Changes: We have learned that The Children’s Day Art Park draws hundreds of guests each week. It is an invaluable opportunity to expose participants to the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its educational programs as well as performances. At this time there are no plans to change the program.