



Western
Museums
Association

Providing professional development for museum professionals since 1935

Western Museums Association Request for Silent and Live Auctions Items

Providing scholarships is a vital component of the WMA's mission—and we need your help! The WMA Annual Meeting features a Silent Auction in the Exhibit Hall and a spirited Live Auction during an Evening Event. Proceeds from the auctions directly fund the [Wanda Chin Scholarship program](#), which helps to subsidize participation in the Annual Meeting for professionals who might otherwise not be able to attend. What better way to support your peers than donating an item to the WMA 2015 Wanda Chin Scholarship Fund auction? The WMA needs you, the WMA community, to help keep attendance to the Annual Meetings available for all museum professionals.

Below are suggestions for contributions that work well for the WMA Silent and Live Auctions. Please read through these ideas and get inspired, and do not be afraid to ask colleagues, artists, favorite merchants, or friends to donate to these fun events.

- **Items representing San Jose or Phoenix** (the location of the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings, respectively) generate enthusiasm for the host city, and give incentives to extend visits.
- **Items that highlight a specific locale** are desirable because attendees come from all over the West. Suggested items include local food and wine (and tastings), passes and accommodations to local resorts and sites, and Native American pieces.
- **Exhibition catalogs** and other promotional objects are great donation items.
- **Museum store collectibles** such as jewelry, decorative items, scarves, prints, books, videos, and any other miscellaneous item are well received.
- **Theme baskets** are great donations for the Silent Auction. Suggested fillers include museum store items, and can be focused on foods, exhibits, or children, etc.
- **Memberships and special behind-the-scenes tours** of museums are always popular among attendees. Consider also offering a meal in the museum's café.
- **Consultants and businesses** can extend their services to a museum for a specified period or reduced fee.
- **Vacation homes** packages make for fantastic Live Auction offerings.
- **Original artworks** from private collections are great for the Live Auction.
- The best auction items are generally **objects, experiences, opportunities that cannot be purchased**, are not commonly available, and are truly "priceless." These types of items generate enthusiasm and generate high bids.

Personal connections are invaluable when soliciting successful donations. Solicitations may require a formal Letter of Request explaining WMA's mission and how the revenue will be used. Many establishments also require advance notice to process the request. Please note that donations are tax deductible. Learn more about WMA here:

www.westmuse.org/about

If you are interested in donating, please contact WMA Program Coordinator, Lauren Valone at lauren@westmuse.org.

Donation forms can be found here: www.westmuse.org/annual-meeting/awards-scholarships/wanda-chin-scholarship#Donate

WESTERN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION'S

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Listen • Learn • Lead | OCTOBER 24-27, 2015 | San Jose, CA