



A creative and safe way for the Women's Symphony League of Austin members to interact!

Project Details:

- When all in-person gatherings were cancelled due to Covid, the Women's Symphony League of Austin (WSL) came up with a creative, safe way for our members to interact. SYMPHONY SIPS was a simple solution: gather in groups of 10 in the front yard, back yard or poolside of a hostess.
- Sign-Up Genius was the platform by which we enrolled, and a waitlist of 5 members per Sip was included in case of last-minute cancellations. Every member brought her own everything: snacks, beverages, chairs and face masks.
- Members stayed 6 feet apart and enjoyed each other's company during evening happy hours and morning coffees from August 2020 through the present day.

Development and Engagement:

- We believe that Symphony Sips builds goodwill within the WSL and played a key role in maintaining many memberships; happy, active members are more apt to become season ticket holders and recruit others to join because we are SO FUN!
- One of the best outcomes of Symphony Sips was the ability to engage New Members. These members paid their dues in the spring of 2020 when the pandemic hit. Many said they were not planning to renew as there was no tangible benefit to being in WSL. After engaging with our fellow sisters during Symphony Sips, many decided to rejoin.
- We realized what we had always suspected – that our members want to be together as much as possible – as we had nearly 100% participation at every gathering and often had a waitlist!



Project Timeline:

- Idea was created in early August and our first two Sips were held at the end of the month. Their success fueled excitement for other hostesses to volunteer their yards and poolsides. Our Meetings Chair reached out weekly to WSL members to hostess from August 2020 to present day.

Financial Information:

- One of the beautiful benefits of Symphony Sips is that there is no cost to anyone.
- The only in-kind contributions were an occasional cheese tray, bottle of wine, water or coffee supplied by hostesses. These were not expected nor recorded, as their value was less than \$50 on average.
- An optional \$25 per Sip "Orchestra Offering" was suggested but not mandated.
- These donations totaled **\$4,670**.

