

Project: Humana Festival Hospitality Kitchen

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Description:

Over two weekends in late March/early April, Actors Theatre of Louisville plays host to directors, producers, agents, critics and other theatre professionals who attend the Humana Festival of New American Plays. During this time, there can be up to 10 different performances a day in the theatre's three performing spaces. Understandably, there are staff members along with stage crews and performers who are at the theatre all weekend and are not even able to get away for a meal. Actors Associates provides home-cooked meals on Saturday and Sunday on two weekends, including made-to-order grilled cheese sandwiches and foods for all dietary needs and preferences.



Keys to success:

- The Associates have a kitchen for their exclusive use in the theatre's basement common area.
 - All Associates (over 100 members) are expected to contribute at least one dish. Many also spend time working in the kitchen –cooking, cleaning, serving and hosting.
 - Other volunteers including usher corps members (a separate entity from Actors Associates) donate dishes.
- Each of the four days is anchored by a team who plans a menu and then asks for food donations to enhance.

Estimated number of hours required from:

Theatre staff – less than 5

Volunteers –

Committee Chair: 60 hours

Committee Members: 450 hours

Contributors: 200 hours

TOTAL Hours: 710 hours (January through April)

Estimated Cost:

The Associates cover all costs from their budget. This year's budget was **\$1,200** which covers paper goods and food staples such as condiments & dressings, lunchmeat, cheese and sandwich bread. Most dishes are donated.

Results:

Just as the Humana Festival is the flagship event at Actors Theatre, the Hospitality Kitchen is for the Associates. Last year (2015), the Associates served approximately 1,000 meals over four days. The staff is very appreciative and looks forward to this every year. On any given day or time at the Hospitality Kitchen, the Associates get to visit with the casts and other artists and the staff gets a chance to relax before the next show. The hospitality that the Associates provide is an incentive to get some of the best artists in the country to come and work at Actors Theatre.

