

Frequently asked questions

When: Thursday, November 30th. The event starts at 5:30 PM with a cocktail hour, dinner is served at 6:30 PM

Where: The Holiday Auction takes place at Lowell Memorial Auditorium (LMA), 50 E Merrimack St, Lowell, MA 01852

Attire: Cocktail or business attire is appropriate, but not required

Parking: Parking is available across the street at the Davidson Parking Facility - 1-199 Davidson St, Lowell, MA 01852. Please do not park in the Church parking lot next to LMA.

Registration: When you arrive at LMA, please enter through the side doors facing Merrimack Street, where the Box Office is located. If you have <u>pre-registered</u> you will be directed to a spot to pick up your bid paddles and first-timer welcome gift. If you have not pre-registered, there will be folks available to assist you when you arrive.

What to expect:

First-timer reception (new this year!): We recognize that our Holiday Auction is a sizable event, and there is a lot going on. We invite everyone who is attending for the first time to join us for a reception at the top of the stairs anytime between 5:30 -6:30 PM. Volunteers and staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, and introduce you to other guests if you like.

Heads or Tails beads: A long-standing highlight of the Holiday Auction is our Heads and Tails game. When you enter LMA, there will be Club teens all around the reception and silent auction area selling beads - which are the entry into the Heads or Tails game. The beads sell for \$20 each (each guest only needs one set of beads to play). Many guests bring \$20 in cash in anticipation of buying beads, however we can add the beads to your Bidpal account as well. (Purchase of beads is optional)

Dinner/allergies/veg options: Dinner is catered by Lenzi's and includes a beef short rib along with vegetables and butternut squash ravioli. Vegetarian meals are available - please let the server for your table know if you have any dietary needs/restrictions.

Cash bar: There are bars open throughout the venue all evening. You can pay for drinks with cash or a credit card. Complimentary wine will be available during dinner, courtesy of Properties.

Bidding at the silent auction: The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell's Holiday Auction is known for our extensive silent auction. Items ranging from \$25 - \$1000+ in value are available to bid upon. Bidding takes place through <u>BidPal</u>. If you have not used Bidpal before - <u>here's a short video tutorial</u>.

Most items will be on display the night of the event, but you may want to look through the items and descriptions in advance to give yourself plenty of time to decide which items you want to bid on!

Live Auction: The Live Auction at the Holiday Auction takes place after dinner and is quite the show! Live auction items include fabulous trips, catered parties and sports packages. A professional auctioneer leads the bidding process, you will receive a bid paddle with your bidder number (which should be the same as the number on your BidPal account) which you can raise to bid on an item. Even if you don't plan on bidding, watching the live auction is a lot of fun!

Fund-the-Need: About halfway through the live auction, a fund-the-need auction will take place. Our auctioneer will share ways that your donations can impact the lives of young people at the Boys & Girls Club, offering the opportunity to 'bid' at different amounts. If you would like to make a donation, simply hold your bid paddle up when the auctioneer says the amount you wish to donate. All funds donated to the Fund-the-need go directly to support programs at the Club.

Payment: BidPal requires a credit card number in order to start bidding. Your card will not be charged unless you make a donation or purchase at the event. Your card will be charged the day after the event, with the exception of raffle tickets, heads or tails beads and donations via the app. You will receive a statement of activities at the end of the evening on One Cause (to view just click the person icon in the top right corner of the site), this is where you can see if you have won any silent auction items as well. You will be emailed a receipt after all charges are processed. If you wish to pay for purchases/donations via a method other than the card that is on file, please visit the registration table before the end of the evening.

If you have questions that we haven't answered above, please feel free to reach out to Angel at abrunelle@lbgc.org.