

Ultimate High-Value Auction Item Guide

For Nonprofits & Schools Ready to
WOW Their Donors

This is an idea list or brainstorming explosion of **once-in-a-lifetime, money-can't-just-buy-it** items. This is not a comprehensive list but just a list of ideas to help get the wheels turning and see what connections you might have to create a once in a lifetime experience your donors will be talking about for years to come. The kinds of auction experiences that raise *\$5K... \$10K... even \$25K+* in a single sale. If your committee, board, or donor network includes or even knows high-level professionals, influencers, or corporate partners — this is the guide to help you unlock their potential.



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Entertainment & Celebrity Access

- **Private tour of a movie set or studio lot** (Warner Bros., Universal Studios)
- **Walk-on role or background extra in a TV show or film**
- **Backstage passes to a concert or meet & greet with artist** (secured through music agents or sponsors)
- **VIP tickets to an awards show** (Grammys, Emmys, ESPYs – often donated by industry insiders)
- **Private concert or house show** with a known local or national artist
- **Sit in on a live TV show taping** (SNL, Jimmy Fallon, Etc.)





Sports & VIP Game Access

- **Suite or courtside tickets** with club-level hospitality (NBA, NFL, NHL, MLB)
- **Golf at a private course** (Augusta National, Riviera, Whisper Rock)
- **Play with a pro:** 18 holes with a PGA player or former pro athlete
- **VIP Passes to major sporting events** (Super Bowl, World Series, The Masters, US Open, Waste Management)
- **Meet & greet with an athlete**, including autographed memorabilia
- **Behind-the-scenes stadium tour** with locker room or practice access



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Luxury Travel & Bucket-List Experiences

- **Use of a private jet for a weekend getaway**
- **Yacht charter for a day or weekend with full crew and meals**
- **Exclusive safari experience with private guide (Africa, Patagonia, Galápagos)**
- **VIP access at international events (Cannes Film Festival, Monaco Grand Prix, Fashion Week)**
- **Helicopter ride over a major city or canyon, possibly paired with a tasting or picnic**
- **Home in Napa, Aspen, or Hawaii for a week (donated by a generous supporter or friend)**
- **Luxury train journey (Rocky Mountaineer, Orient Express)**



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Culinary Experiences & Private Access

- **Dinner for 10 cooked in your home** by a James Beard Award-winning or celebrity chef
- **Tasting menu at a Michelin-starred restaurant**, with wine pairing and kitchen tour
- **Private wine tasting and cave tour** at a top Napa or Sonoma vineyard
- **Cocktail class or bourbon tasting** led by a master distiller or mixologist
- **Farm-to-table dinner on a private ranch** or vineyard with live music
- **Backyard Bash** - Food truck, mobile pizza oven or taco bar catered with entertainment, games, local beer & wine, etc for 30 people. Great for birthdays, graduation, corporate parties and so on.



Political, Tech & Business Insider Access

- **Lunch or Zoom call with a CEO, author, or public figure** (great for entrepreneurs and aspiring professionals — think startup founders, TED speakers, Shark Tank investors)
- **White House or Capitol tour** arranged through a donor's congressional connection
- **Tech campus tour:** Google, Tesla, SpaceX, or Apple (especially appealing to teens and families)
- **Shadow a leader for a day** (business, medicine, law, sports)



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Art, Fashion & Cultural Experiences

- VIP passes to fashion week events (New York, Paris, Milan)
- Commissioned art or portrait by a known artist
- Private museum tour led by a curator or director
- Custom jewelry design experience with a high-end jeweler
- Personal stylist for a shopping day in Beverly Hills, NYC, or Scottsdale
- Custom hat or boot fitting with a renowned maker (great for western galas!)



How to Secure These Items:

- **Ask your board or planning committee:** Who do they know in sports, film, travel, politics, or entertainment?
- **Tap corporate sponsors:** Sales reps and execs often have access to box seats, luxury travel perks, or private events
- **Leverage donor networks:** Ask major donors, realtors, or community influencers what they *could* offer
- **Offer anonymity or naming rights:** Many high-end donors like privacy — but still love impact
- **Package creatively:** Combine airfare, hotel, and access for a full luxury experience



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Bonus Tip: Use These Phrases in Your Ask

- "We're looking for something money can't buy for our live auction."
- "What's the most VIP experience you've ever had — and could we recreate it for someone else?"
- "Do you have any connections to athletes, celebrities, or leaders that could create a once-in-a-lifetime experience?"
- "If you had \$10,000 to spend on a bucket-list experience, what would it be?"
- "Is there a 'backstage pass' experience you've had or could arrange for us?"
- "Could you help us create something that would never show up on Expedia or Ticketmaster?"
- "Do you ever host private dinners, parties, or travel with a group — and would you donate something similar?"

Let's brainstorm
together...

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