



Wingspan Fundraising Event Ideas

As the party master, the sky is the limit. Feel free to brainstorm for boundless fun. If you will be charging an entry fee, selling tickets, or collecting contributions of more than \$25.00, see the Third Party Event FAQs and Application.

Don't forget the cameras and camcorders! We'll document your folly on a special *Two Weeks of FUNd Raising* page on our website.

Can't think of an idea yourself? Check out these examples and steal away:

The Basics, but with Pizzazz

- ★ **Bake Sales** – Ever made shapes with marshmallow treats? Mmm mmm. Take 'em to work or sell 'em on the sidewalk. And you get the leftovers!
- ★ **Car Washes** – Lather is good, even when it is used for cleaning metal.
- ★ **House Parties** – You live in a castle. Show it off! Ask folks to bring their checkbooks!
- ★ **Delectable Dinners** – Make it a dream meal. Food is love. Turn love into money.
- ★ **Bingo** – Borrow some Dab-A-Dots and have one of our drag ladies come tell it like it is. Ask guests to pay a buck (or more) for each card. Give winners all the kitsch you're dying to get rid of.
- ★ **Collect Change or Recycle Cans** - Here's a great way to involve your kids and their schools.
- ★ **Book Sale** – Have a used book sale at work. A buck a book.
- ★ **Yard Sales** – Haven't you been wanting to clear out that garage or open the closet door without stuff falling out? Get the neighborhood to contribute their "stuff" too. Call a planner if you don't want to do the preparations.
- ★ **An Evening Out** – Have folks meet you at your favorite restaurant and leave a tip for Wingspan.
- ★ **Personal Shopper** – Charge your friends to do their birthday, bar mitzvah, wedding, holiday, or whatever shopping.
- ★ **Game Nights** – Put your drama to good use in charades or Pictionary. Prove you really are intelligent with Cranium. Show you are trustworthy with poker. There's got to be a game you like. People can ante up to play or make a single donation.

à la More

- ★ **Concerts** – Come out, come out all ye closeted Beethovens, Freddie Mercurys, Pavrottis, Joan Sutherlands, Barbras, LaBelles, Betties, musical mavens and divas. Have your friends applaud your skills with the green stuff.
- ★ **Drag shows** – Do it at home. Do it at a bar. A Queen can be adored anywhere. Ask for a set amount or let guests decide what they can contribute.
- ★ **Holiday Costume Parties** – Sequins ALLOWED! Any holiday can be celebrated on any day of the year. We aren't limited to enjoying roast turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce on Thanksgiving alone. . . Take donations at the door.
- ★ **Gay Dog Parade** – Set a time when you and your fellow “parents” can bring Fluffy and Spot to the park to show off their Gay-Wear. There are actually websites that make gay clothing for pooches. Have an entry fee and put a hat out for passers-by.
- ★ **Half Birthday Parties** – Why settle for celebrating your life once each year? Get more out of aging by having a party on your half-birthday, or thereabouts. Ask that your birthday gift be a check to Wingspan.
- ★ **Benefit Concerts** - Know someone with talent that others would pay to hear? Venue + sound system + tickets + performer(s) = Benefit Concert. Some coffee shops and restaurants will help set you up.
- ★ **Wine Tastings** – Why bother with Napa or Sonoma? Dust off those special bottles in your cellar. Ask for donations or auction off bottles that folks like the most.
- ★ **Chocolate Tastings** – Don't drink? Do drink? Try sampling chocolates from Tucson's great Chocolateers. You can even buy premade selections from online companies (www.chocosphere.com has some fabulous premixed samplers – search “sample” on their site – Michel Cluizel's collections are phenomenal). Do a tea tasting at Seven Cups if you don't think chocolate is love.
- ★ **Tequila Tasting** – Don't want to stock the bar yourself, check out some of our cool bars and restaurants. You can plan it for a one price gets you everything or have guests pay for their own shots.
- ★ **Sit-Com Marathon** – Queer as Folk, Dante's Cove, Laverne & Shirley, Dark Shadows, Three's Company . . . and Lucy! Rented DVDs, popcorn, soda and beer – it's a cheap way to stir up old memories and new laughs. And even with collecting contributions, it's probably cheaper than going to a big theater.
- ★ **Themed Dinner Parties** – You can never go wrong here. These bring out memories and nasty foods that we still secretly love - spam, pigs in a blanket, foil tv dinners, tang, cheese whiz, fried pork rinds. If you pick the 70s, you can bring back the mullet.

★ **Classic Car Cleaning** – Ask those lucky ones with four-wheeled beauties to drive over for a show and cleaning. Serve snacks while aficionados buff it up. Oogling allowed. Pocket change accepted.

★ **Birding Hike** – Introduce newbies to your love of birds for a small fee.

One for the Scrapbooks

★ **Limousine Progressive Dinner** – Great food. The best company. Free flowing beverages. And a designated driver. Who can argue with that? Rent the limo, stock it up, and cruise from house to house. In you go, out you go, around you go. Don't forget to ask for the cash.

★ **A-thons** - Bowl, skate, or dance the night away. Winners get fame. Wingspan gets pledges.

★ **Motorcycle Rides** – Were you one of the lucky ones to ride with Dykes on Bikes? Gather your own group and head to one of Southern Arizona's gorgeous nature venues. Go Hog Wild!

★ **Block Parties** – Involve your neighbors. You'll become a legend in the 'hood.

★ **Treasure Hunt** – For you geographically inclined and Sherlock Holmes types, design a clever course. Charge an entrance fee. There are guides to setting up a treasure hunt on the web. Google it.

★ **Karaoke Queen** – Have friends put cash in a basket for each singer. High money maker gets crowned Queen! Do it at home or at an eatery or bar. Wingspan and your friends will love the notes you did and did not hit.

★ **Junior Prom** – Organize a Junior Prom party for all your friends who bagged that event in high school. Appropriate attire required. Si corsages. And don't forget to crown the King and Queen!

★ **Shot Party with Shooters Piñata** – Have you ever thought “airplane bottles” were cute? Get a piñata, stuff it with shooters (airplane bottles) and other “adult” pocket items, and start swinging. You won't have to clean up what no one wanted. Charge enough to cover the cost of the liquor.

Pass on the Love

We dare you. Why not create an act to share with others? If you come up with something smoldering, take it on the road. Wingspan will advertise your troupe in the electronic universe (our website, twitter, and other outlets). And you can march in any Parade - including the Pride Parade on October 9.

Drill Team – Cordless drill-wielding lesbians in a Charlie’s Angels Pose? Girls, we know you love your power tools. Turn it into art!

Baton Twirling Drag Queens – Calling all Kilgorettes wannabes. It takes skill, but it is so worth it.

Esther Williams Rainbow Pool Noodle Synchronized Swim - Who wouldn’t pay to see this? Choreograph something incredible or make it up as you go. For under twenty bucks you can get pool noodles of all colors. Then let your aquatic brethren and sistereen shake a stick - or noodle - to some gay classic or symphony.

If you have any questions, please call 624-1779 or email wingspan@wingspan.org.

Once again, thank you for your interest in planning a fundraising event to benefit Wingspan and the LBGT community.

Please send us your party plans or ideas. We want everyone to share in the fun. Send your party information (date, location, theme) to us to post on a special party action webpage. We will mark each event as:

- **Private** – just you and your guests
- **RSVP** – others are welcome if they let you know they are coming. Feel free to set a limit.
- **Open** – anyone can show up

You can remain anonymous or have folks laud your generosity and cleverness. You decide how much information we post about you. Even if you wish to remain anonymous, we seriously urge you to tell us what you are doing so our community will know We Are Happening!

Send information to: wingspan@wingspan.org.

HAVE FUN!