

# ALL TOGETHER NOW

## Frequently Asked Questions

Vision	<p><b>Q</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Why are we doing an auction gala this year?</p>	Vision
	<p>What is our goal?</p>		<p>For many years, UUSM has sponsored auction fundraising events that were lots of fun, both at the events themselves and at the many post-auction get-togethers they generated. In 2020, we needed to cancel Party Palooza due to the pandemic. This year, following the lead of many churches and other nonprofits, we have learned how to create an exciting auction using well established online tools. Recognizing that we still need to be mindful of the pandemic, we are asking auction donors to identify activities, both socially distanced and hopefully in person (at later dates), as we open back up again.</p>	
	<p>I'm delighted that UU San Mateo and UU Coastside Community are working together on the auction gala. How did that come about?</p>		<p>Our goal is to raise at least \$25,000. Every gift advances our ability to create a caring, dynamic community that can respond to whatever we are facing in our lives. A place where we can be there for ourselves, each other, and our world - no matter what.</p> <p>UU San Mateo helped the UU Coastside Community to start up a little over five years ago, and continues to support UUSM's growth. The two congregations often exchange favors and good deeds, and the Auction and Virtual Gala is one more example of this. For this event, UUSM brings multiple talents, and the Coastside Community shares a portion of the proceeds.</p>	
Sponsoring	<p><b>Q</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>I am interested in sponsoring All Together Now. How do I go about it?</p>	Sponsoring
	<p>Are All Together Now sponsorships tax-deductible?</p>		<p>Becoming an All Together Now sponsor is a great way to whole-heartedly support UUSM and UU Coastside, either instead of or in addition to bidding on auction items. You can do this by making an advance gift on the <b>UUSM website</b> through Vanco, PayPal, or by sending a check to the office. You can also click on the Sponsor tab on the auction website. Contributions at any level will be gratefully received.</p>	
	<p><b>Q</b></p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Glad you asked: Yes, ATN sponsorships are tax deductible!</p>	

Donating	Can we donate live, in-person events, as we did in the Before Times? I used to donate a high-tea party, and it was so much fun!	You can donate live events, as long as they're scheduled between Oct 1, 2021 and Mar 31, 2022. Or you could consider converting your live event to a Zoom event.
	What kinds of in-person Before Times events can be converted into Zoom events? How would I do that?	This is where your imagination and creativity come in! Some events that were formerly in-person could lend themselves to easy-and-fun conversion; others, not so much. If your event falls into the latter category, consider scheduling it to take place between October 2020 and March 2022, when we hope being together in close proximity will be safe.
	What happens if county health restrictions interfere with in-person events that have been scheduled and paid for by auction winners?	Please work with your donor (host) to find a reasonable solution. We're all in this together.
	How would I deliver the physical item I'm donating?	On the donation form on the <b>All Together Now webpage</b> , you'll see the options: delivering the item to your "winner" yourself; taking the item to UUSM for one of the pickup days; or contacting the AllTogetherNow delivery team.
	How would I deliver the zoom event I'm donating?	If you can use your personal Zoom account, please do. If not, the UUSM account or the UUCS account may be available. Please check with the <b>UUSM office</b> .
	I don't really have anything to donate, but instead I want to give a cash donation. How would I do that?	Terrific! Sounds as if you'd like to be an All Together Now sponsor. You can do this by making an advance gift on the UUSM website through Vanco, PayPal, or by sending a check to the office.
	Do I have to submit a photo of my donated item?	Items that include photos are likely to get a lot more attention than items with only descriptions. You might find a photo or drawing on the internet that could "represent" your item. If you're having trouble finding anything, email us at <b>alltogethernow@uusanmateo.org</b> . We may be able to help.
I saw that some people have made short videos about their donated items! Can I do that?	Bonus points for you! Yes, if you send us an upbeat, informative video about your item, we may feature it on the UUSM Facebook page, or on the silent auction app itself! Please email us at <b>alltogethernow@uusanmateo.org</b> if you're interested, and we'll give you the details.	
<b>Q</b>		<b>A</b>
Gala	How do I register for the Gala?	There's no need to register for the Gala. Just join the Zoom event shortly before 7PM on Saturday, May 8. We'll make the link available in several convenient places.
	What is the Gala about? Is it a kind of live auction?	The Gala is the culminating event for All Together Now. It will be approximately 40 minutes long and promises to delight and inspire you. And, It's an opportunity for our community to gather together and celebrate yet-another job well done. While it will not include a Live Auction, you will be able to continue bidding on the online silent auction app, Auctria. Lots of surprises are in store!

Can I invite my friends to the Gala?	Absolutely! Feel free to direct individuals to the <b>UUSM All Together Now webpage</b> , so they can register for the silent auction and find the link to the Gala
Can I go to the Gala even if I'm not registered with the auction app?	You sure can! You'll find the link on the <b>UUSM All Together Now</b> webpage.
<b>Silent Auction</b>	<p><b>Q</b></p> <p>Why do I have to download the Auctria app in order to bid in the auction?</p> <p>Do I have to store my credit card information with the auction app? How do I know it's safe?</p> <p>What devices can I use to participate in the online bidding? Laptop, desktop, mobile?</p> <p>Can I call in a bid by phone?</p> <p>How do I register for the online silent auction?</p> <p>Why do I have to download the Auctria app in order to bid in the auction?</p> <p>How will I know if someone has bid against me?</p> <p>What's the best way to raise my chances of winning an item?</p> <p>What is proxy bidding? How do I make a simple bid?</p> <p><b>A</b></p> <p>The Auctria software provides you with access to the online auction catalogue, manages the bidding process, and enables us to take all of the steps necessary to keep things organized, identify the winners, manage payments, etc. Besides, it's fun to use!</p> <p>Yes. Entering a credit-card number into the Auctria application allows you to pay for the item(s) you win. All credit card numbers so entered are transmitted over an encrypted connection to one of two highly-reputable credit-card processing companies that handle the security requirements around card number storage. You don't really have to enter your credit card information until you check out.</p> <p>You can use any of these devices, or any combination thereof.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the app has no way of receiving bids by phone. This is a silent auction, not a live auction.</p> <p>Just go to the <b>All Together Now page</b> on the UUSM website, and follow the instructions to register.</p> <p>Auctria is the company we've selected to manage our online auction process. They are providing us with a lot of helpful services at a very reasonable price. And besides, it's fun!</p> <p>You can set up the auction application so that it notifies you by email or text if someone bids higher than you.</p> <p>You can instruct the auction application to "proxy bid" for you: if someone outbids you, the app will place a higher bid on your behalf, up to a limit that you have set privately in the app. The app will "hover" over your favorite item and enter your bidder number each time someone else bids against you -- but only up to the limit you've set. And remember: even if you don't win that item, our community will win!</p> <p>Available on some items, proxy bidding is an automated way to virtually hover around the auction table, raising your bid. You set your "secret" limit, and as others bid, the app automatically raises your bid the minimum amount that keeps you in the lead. You can skip proxy bidding by choosing Quick Bid.</p>
<b>Silent Auction</b>	

	<p>I don't want proxy bidding. How do I make a simple bid?</p>		<p>On the items that offer proxy bidding, choose the link right below it called Quick Bid.</p>
	<p>How do I bid on more than one spot at an event? I want to bring my friend/spouse/mom to the dinner!</p>		<p>How do I bid on more than one spot at an event? Make your bid for the first spot. A gray box appears above the Bid button reading Update your existing bid? Select Place a new bid. Then type in your second bid and click Bid. Voila!</p>
	<p>At checkout, what is this extra donation to cover payment processing costs?</p>		<p>The auction app and credit card processing fees are by default covered by UUSM, but you can choose to cover these fees yourself. It's 100% optional! Please don't feel obligated.</p>
	<p>Can I invite my friends to bid? Do they have to be UUSM members?</p>		<p>Anyone can participate in the online auction! Just direct your friends to the <b>UUSM All Together Now webpage</b> so they can register for our auction.</p>
<p>Picking Up</p>	<p><b>Q</b> How do I get an item I won in the auction?</p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Check your receipt to find out if you need to connect with the donor (either for delivery or pickup) or if the AllTogetherNow team will deliver the item to you.</p>
	<p>If I'm picking up my won items at UUSM, how and when can I do that?</p>		<p>Sorry--because of covid restrictions, we found that we can't offer the option to pick up your item at UUSM. Instead the AllTogetherNow delivery team will deliver the item to your home.</p>

Is your question missing? Please email us at [alltogethernow@uusanmateo.org](mailto:alltogethernow@uusanmateo.org).