



# 101 CHARITY AUCTION ITEM IDEAS

Putting together an auction is a lot of work. Even the “easy” items take work to procure. Your committee may have lots of ideas for items to go after, but if you’re lacking in the creativity department, check out this list of 101 awesome auction items.


Most of the time, your standard list of items is pretty good: restaurant gift cards, theater tickets, wine tastings, catered meals, sporting events and memorabilia. **But...** the unique items are what really sets your auction apart and brings in the big bucks so you can do more good.

Whatever your item wish list has on it, supplement with as many “experiences” as possible. People bid more for items that they can’t just buy on their own, so items that offer a truly unique experience are very attractive. There’s also a lot of scientific research that shows that people value experiences more than possessions, so make sure you have some fun, exclusive, and exciting items to make your auction stand out.

On the BiddingForGood by FrontStream™ website, the nonprofit industry’s largest and most-respected online auction destination site, there is always a smattering of extremely cool auction items. Here are just a few – 101, to be exact – to inspire you from your next charity auction.

## Food, Drink and a Night Out

1. A murder mystery dinner put on by a local theater company
2. A dinner party with food catered by a local celebrity chef in your home
3. A Netflix night in: fast food/pizza gift certificates grouped with a one year subscription to Netflix and a fancy bottle of wine
4. A dinner and wine pairing at a local restaurant that is impossible to get a reservation
5. A year of dinner dates: If you have lots of restaurant gift cards, consider pairing twelve of them together- they will probably sell for a higher price than individually
6. Specialty cocktails or a bar tab for a corporate or personal event
7. Wine and Dine at Home: pair a bottle of wine with a GrubHub or Uber Eats gift card and you have an instant night in
8. Fully packed picnic for four. Pair with a wine tasting package at a vineyard that lets you bring your own snacks
9. A season's share from a local CSA
10. Apple picking for 4 at a local orchard with a tractor ride for the kids
11. "Behind the scenes" tour of a vineyard, local winery, or distillery, including a tasting
12. Beer brewery tour for a large group with a private room to celebrate with your guests after
13. Cheese or chocolate tasting
14. Wine school: a tasting that includes an educational session about wine production, origin and how to properly taste wine
15. Basket of beer: this can be used for pretty much anything. If you have lots of artisanal beer, put it in a basket with some pretzels and snacks. Also consider a "stock the bar" package where each board member donates a different bottle of liquor. This can be served in a basket or wheel barrel- depending on the size of your board.
16. A Chef's Table experience at a popular restaurant
17. Gift certificate for catering- in the home or office, can be paired with lots of things! Make it a casino night by including a rental of tables and staff to run the games.
18. A dinner at the fire station, cooked by the firemen
19. Jelly of the month club or substitute any "of the month" club. Fruit, wine, international snacks- there are tons of options!
20. Girl scout cookies in the off season. Take advantage of the scarcity of the market!
21. A year of grooming: a spa trip, hair salon services, beauty products, and a Sephora gift card
22. Wine (yes, again). People love wine. If you have a few valuable (or hard to find) bottles, sell them individually. Or consider using one to start off your live auction. Often a lower cost item is the perfect start to getting the bidding going and starting your auction off right.



**If you have a few valuable wines, consider using one to start off your live auction.**



## There's No Business Like Show Business

- 23. Hollywood experience: walk on role in a movie, meet with a casting director, auction for a tv show
- 24. New York theatre: tickets to a hot show, dinner out and a hotel
- 25. Studio audience tickets to a TV show taping
- 26. Tickets to the local opera or symphony
- 27. Season tickets to a local theatre company: one that has several shows throughout the year is great
- 28. A news station tour with your favorite anchor, sit in the control room and watch the local newscast
- 29. Out of town show: put together tickets to a show, dinner, accommodations and a gift card to pay for travel expenses.  
Most people don't get quite as excited over airline tickets or miles, but cash is universal
- 30. A local radio station tour including meet and greets
- 31. Visit the set of a movie filming in your area
- 32. Escape Room tickets for a big group
- 33. Guest on your favorite podcast or tour of NPR studio



**Auction off a  
Hollywood  
experience: a  
walk-on role  
in a movie or  
tv show.**

## Homemade Items Warm the Heart

- 34. A handmade quilt
- 35. Handmade candles and soap
- 36. Paint-your-own pottery experience
- 37. Handmade home decor
- 38. Portrait painting or photo sitting on the beach
- 39. Art supplies from a local independent art store and a painting lesson
- 40. Handmade watercolor painting of your current home or childhood home
- 41. Painting party: children's birthday party with snacks and a lesson to make a painting each child can take home.  
Add in some wine and it's a great ladies night out

## School Super Items Draw High Appeal in their Communities

- 42. Principal or head of school for a day
- 43. Furniture made by the school's students in shop class
- 44. Collective art projects: film a video of the kids making the artwork. Great options include: making mosaic plates and cups, painting pottery and more
- 45. An opportunity to conduct the high school band at a concert
- 46. Naming rights to a classroom for a year
- 47. A prime parking spot at school for graduation, a school concert, or sports game
- 48. A prime spot on campus for a year
- 49. Plant a tree in someone's honor on campus



**Auction  
furniture made by  
high school students  
in shop class.**



**TIP:** For school auctions, items that donate back to the school are a great option. It could be a work of art, books, school supplies or anything you can think of. This is a great way to tie your mission into your event. You could even do a paddle raise and have more than one donor fund the item.

## A-Ticket, a-Tasket, a Big, Awesome Basket


50. Movie sleepover for kids. Snacks, DVDs or BluRays, Netflix or Hulu gift card, popcorn, candy, and maybe even a video game
51. Movie night for adults. Wine, beer, snacks, Netflix gift card, board games, an Uber gift card so everyone gets home safely
52. Game night. A deck of cards with a book about card games, Life, Monopoly, Clue, even Mystery Date or Mall Madness if you can find it!
53. As Seen On TV. Check out Bed, Bath & Beyond or a similar home goods store for all the unique gadgets you see on TV late at night. Even better- see if you can get a gift card donated from Bed Bath and Beyond and pick out the items yourself.
54. Grooming. For men, women, unisex and kids of all ages: shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair styling tools, make up, Chapstick and anything else you can think of!
55. Locally made products. Find local companies that have unique or handmade items and do a "taste of" your city
56. Kid's toys perfect for an upcoming birthday or party
57. Camping supplies. Sleeping bags, tent, tarp, mess kit and more
58. Baby shower. Baby diapers, wipes, onesies, something special for the mother
59. Mother's or Father's Day. Jewelry, stuff for the home, beer, wine, dinner out with the whole family
60. Kids clothing. Items that any toddler needs- socks, onesies, simple toys, and more. Or, put together a basket to be donated to a local shelter.
61. Pets: treats for your dog or cat- or donate items to a local animal shelter
62. Wines of the world: wine from all around the country for home wine tasting parties or just to stock the wine cellar
63. Home spa. Lotion, bubble bath, face masks, fluffy towels and robes, slippers, tea
64. Beach bum. Towels, beach bag, sunscreen, sand castle supplies, snacks, a cooler already stocked with beverages

**Auction a  
baby shower  
with diapers,  
wipes or something  
special for the  
mother.**



## Home Services

- 65. Landscaping and lawn mowing
- 66. Home wifi network set up
- 67. Home theatre and sound system install
- 68. Fall yard cleanup
- 69. Snow plow or removal for the season
- 70. Complete home cleaning
- 71. A car detailing



**Auction off  
tickets to an NFL,  
NBA or major  
league baseball  
game.**

## Hit a Home Run with Sporting Event & Concert Tickets

- 72. Local tour date of your favorite singer
- 73. A major league baseball game
- 74. A minor league baseball game
- 75. An NFL football game
- 76. An NBA basketball game
- 77. Local college football or basketball game

## Totally Unique Experiences

78. DIY Craft experience. Studios are popping up everywhere where you can make a woodworking, painting, or clay project
79. Gift certificate to a cut-your-own Christmas Tree Farm
80. A week at a beach house in Florida with gift certificates for local attractions
81. A week at a ski house in Aspen with a ski lesson included
82. Use of a large fishing boat or yacht-for a party or a one-on-one fishing lesson. Boat captain included!
83. Deep sea fishing trip
84. Painting lessons
85. Singing lessons
86. Appointment with a personal shopper or tailor
87. Round of golf at a members only course
88. Piano lessons
89. A cooking class for two for a date night
90. Dance classes for kids or even a date night
91. Indoor skydiving or golfing experience
92. Sailing lessons
93. A week at summer camp; either your organization's summer camp or one run for children nearby
94. Local spa package for couples
95. Catamaran trip with dinner on the ship
96. A family-friendly cruise
97. A booze cruise
98. A speed artist that creates pieces of art at a live event to auction off.
99. Indoor or outdoor climbing lessons
100. A hot air balloon ride
101. A guided horseback trail ride for 2 or 4



Auction a ski week,  
golf outing or  
indoor skydiving.

Remember, be creative and don't limit your list... or your imagination!

## Happy Fundraising!

