



What is the Big Leap Annual Benefit?

Saturday, April 18, 2020, 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Moretti's Edison Park
6727 Olmsted Avenue, Chicago
Complimentary Valet Parking

The Big Leap is Brickton Montessori School's Annual Benefit fundraiser. In addition to the Annual Fund, it is the only other concentrated financial effort to raise funds for the school's current programs and future growth. It is a grown-ups only evening filled with dinner, music and silent and live auction fun! Of course, it is also an opportunity for the Brickton community to connect with other families.

Who goes to the Big Leap?

Parents, staff, friends, family and anyone else who wants to participate in this once a year event. If someone in your family or friend circle is invested in the future of Brickton Montessori School and Montessori education, please extend an invitation.

What can I do to support the Big Leap?

1) **Come to the event and participate**—that's the most fun way to support The Big Leap! Invite your friends and family to participate, too. If you can't attend in person, don't despair - make a cash donation to the event, contribute to the staff ticket fund (our goal is to not have faculty/staff pay for their own ticket), or designate a proxy to bid for you at the event. You'll feel like you were there!

2) **Help procure** bottles of wine and gift certificates for the Wine & Dine grab bags. These Wine & Dine grab bags will be available the night of the event. Your donation of bottles of wine or gift certificates enters you into the raffle for 2 FREE tickets to The Big Leap. For every bottle of wine donated, you will receive **1 raffle ticket**. For every gift certificate valued at \$25 or more, you will receive **2 raffle tickets!**

3) **Assist in procurement for our online auction.** The ask letter and form are at www.brickton.org. Our online auction has items that are available only online. Some items available for bidding prior to the event will close at the live event, for example, staff sponsored experiences like a sleepover. Stop by the office for suggestions of items we are actively sourcing.

Once the online auction is up and running, invite your friends and family to start bidding! The Big Leap Annual Benefit online auction opens at 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 9th and closes at 10:00 pm on Friday, April 17th. Your procurement of an item enters you into the raffle for 2 FREE tickets to The Big Leap: For every item procured you will receive **2 raffle tickets.**

4) **Assist with the solicitation of sponsors for the event.** To support that work, the sponsorship letter and form are at www.brickton.org. Your solicitation of a sponsor enters you into the raffle for 2 FREE tickets to The Big Leap. For every presenting sponsorship you will receive **5 raffle tickets.**



Aren't auction items very expensive?

Our Silent and Live Auctions will feature a wide variety of items large and small. Most items are quite affordable, with many selling for \$100 and under. The most frenzied bidding tends to involve our students' Classroom Art Projects: spectacular, one-of-a-kind items created by our students, most of which close for between \$250 and \$1,000.

Is seating assigned?

No. The room is set-up as a tasting-style buffet, with tables scattered throughout the room. All the better to mingle, dance, and peruse the Classroom Art Projects without being stuck in one spot all night. You can, however, reserve a VIP table for you and your guests for an additional sponsorship charge. Details will come with the invitation.

But what do I wear?

Whatever puts you in a party mood! You'll see ladies in cocktail dresses and gentlemen in tuxedo jackets and jeans – and everything in between! Look at it as an opportunity to show everyone how nicely you can clean up when you're not dealing with the drama of drop-off.

What's the (rough) schedule?

6:30 pm - open bar, silent auction
7:00 pm – Food buffet opens
8:00 pm - First live auction items hit the block
8:30 pm - Dessert stations open; Heads or Tails
9:00 pm – Silent Auction Closes; Split the Pot winner announced
9:05 pm - Final live auction items; Bears raffle winner announced, Paddles Up!
9:30 pm - Dancing is in full swing
10:30 pm –2020 Big Leap comes to a close

May I bring friends and family who don't have children at Brickton?

Absolutely! As the saying goes "the more, the merrier." Families have brought grandparents, aunts/uncles and neighbors.

So, can I bring the children?

Not tonight! They get to have fun all the time. The event is about them, but the evening is for adults only.

Sounds great...how do I sign up?

Watch for your digital invitation to arrive via Paperless Post. Then submit your RSVP. You can pay with a check to the office or request we invoice you.

**The countdown is underway for
Brickton's Big Leap on Saturday, April 18th!**

