

Social Committee FAQ

What does Social Committee do?

Social Committee organizes both Lawnparties every year, and always selects the main headliner at Quad. Through its 4 sub-committees, it organizes various social events for the student body, ranging from bussing students to popular concerts for affordable prices, hosting Battle of the Bands, to organizing study breaks.

How does Social Committee select the artists for Lawnparties?

Responsibility: Each of the club books their own act, but Soc Com is responsible for booking only the main headliner at Quad.

Booking Process: There are several things that go into booking an act. We work with an established agent, who contacts managers and artists on terms of availability and pricing. Initially, we conduct an internal survey within Social Committee, gathering personal preferences and wishlists. Simultaneously, we survey the entire student body, in broader terms. We then aggregate results from both, looking at genre mostly from students, and names that appear many times. We come up with a list of the ranking of prospective artists, that we then send to our agent. He gets back to us on the availability and pricing of each act, and we go back and forth until we find one in our price range, and who is available. Factors that guide our search are pricing, availability, genre, student reception (survey results, how students will respond, past performers, etc.).

Genre: Student reception is crucial to who is invited to perform at Lawnparties, however, pricing and availability do severely limit the range of artists we can get. It is also important to note that the selection that we choose is not particularly a reflection on Social Committee's taste, but rather an aggregate of availability, pricing, and survey results.

Budget: Our budget ranges from 60K-70K for the Main act and the headliner. For comparison, here are some other schools' budgets:

Penn: ~\$300,000

Brown: ~\$180,000

Hunter, Simon and Ella are currently working on a task force to see how we can increase our funding for LP's. Its been a while since our budget has even been accounted for inflation, so there's definitely something there, we just need to compile all of the information.

Is there a way to suggest artists for Lawnparties?

A campus-wide survey is always released well before a Lawnparties act is selected, allowing all students input. One can also suggest acts at Soc Com Tabling events, or email any social committee member.

What are the different groups within Social Committee and what are their roles?

Soc Com is comprised of four subcommittees:

Speakers and Events– organizes social events open to all Princeton students and invites speakers to campus for panels and discussions on topics, for example, last year’s talk with Daniel Glass, director of Glassnote Records.

Music and Concerts– runs on-campus music events such as Battle of the Bands and arranges for student trips to concerts in New York and Philadelphia, at venues like Terminal Five and Electric Factory. Past concerts: Zedd, Chainsmokers, OK Go.

Lawnparties/Publicity– coordinates our Fall and Spring Lawnparties festivals and communicates with students to help make Soc Com more transparent and accessible
(New!) Student Arts Coalition– works to 1) unite the disparate arts community on campus 2) provide more space for the public exhibition of student art.

How can I get on Social Committee?

Every semester, Social Committee holds an application process in which all are welcome to complete and submit.

How can I be involved with Social Committee if I am not on it?

Participate in surveys, send emails with suggestions to the above listed email addresses, attend Social Committee open houses.

How much have we changed the mechanism for selecting acts following the Big Sean controversy?

We have taken several measures to improve our selection process. We have since created a new separate Lawnparties committee dedicated purely to improving and standardizing the selection mechanism. This semester, we create the internal soc committee survey/external campus survey, an FAQ, an Infographic, and Social Committee Tabling. We are happy to consider recommendations! Tabling is new, and it itself is a means of increasing communication between campus and social committee.

Who is on Social Committee?

Simon Wu '17, Aileen Huang '17, Richard Polo '16, Yasmeen Almog '17, Lyonnais Aung '18, Evan Bell '18, Adelle Dimitui '19, Joe Grabowski '18, Lavinia Liang '18, Selena Kitchens '17, Tyler Bozeman '18, Zach Halem '18, Zaynab Zaman '18, Aaron Jung '19, James Chen '19, Jiayang Li '19, Amber Park '19.

Where can I contact Social Committee or its members?

The Lawnparties website, lawnparties.com, lists information regarding social committee, social committee members, lawnparties, etc. A FB page is in the works, but posting questions on the Lawnparties FB page or the USG page is also effective. Best emails to contact: zzaman@princeton.edu, ahjung@princeton.edu, egbell@princeton.edu, simonw@princeton.edu.