

South Orange Performing Arts Center

Audience Services Department

Policy Regarding Searches/Inspections of Patrons' Personal Belongings

Created: 5.22.18

SOPAC does not tolerate discrimination of any kind. Therefore, no patron's belongings will be searched based solely upon a patron's race, religion, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age or any other protected category.

SOPAC employees and security personnel may search patrons' personal belongings such as handbags, brief cases, pocket books, backpacks or packages if there is any concern that the bag at issue contains any item that poses a danger to the health, safety or well-being of the patron or anyone else who may be present at the performance. A search may also be conducted if there is concern that the bag contains something that violates a policy or rule of SOPAC, such as the rule against food or drink in the theater. If the patron refuses to permit the search he/she will be denied entrance to the performance and will receive a refund for the ticket price.

The personal belongings of patrons shall be searched if a guest speaker or artist requires this as a precondition to performing at SOPAC. In such cases, SOPAC will provide patrons attending such events with reasonable advance notice on the Center's website, in Email reminders to patrons prior to the event, and in clearly visible notices posted in the building on the day of the event.

Such signage will say: "All personal bags, backpacks, packages and other personal items will be subject to search by SOPAC personnel for this event."

SOPAC employees or security personnel will not conduct any pat down searches of patrons or require patrons to empty their pockets, but reserves the right to deny entrance to any patron who it believes is a danger to self or others or is otherwise in possession of any item that violates a rule or policy of SOPAC.

Items such as backpacks, large bags, duffle bags, large handbags, briefcases, computer bags, suitcases, or any bag larger than 12"x 12" x 8" that will not safely stow under seats are strictly prohibited in the SOPAC Theatre. SOPAC personnel will politely explain that this is to avert an impediment to safe egress from rows and aisles, and is therefore for the safety of all audience members. Oversized items left in the lobby or box office may be subject to search at the discretion of SOPAC staff. SOPAC is not responsible for any property that is lost, stolen, or damaged.