

REDEFINING A GREAT
Arts EXPERIENCE

HONORING
Diana Hart

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD TO
John Lee

ENTERTAINMENT
Michael Feinstein

Nov
06
2021

SOPAC
gala



DIANA HART

My inspiration to connect with SOPAC came from witnessing my intrepid, creative mother who founded and ran, for 30 years, a music & arts organization for differently abled youth. As a blind woman, she understood there was great need to connect people of all abilities, cultures and economic situations to the arts, music and each other.

Before I joined SOPAC, I read an article in the local newspaper about the teens in our sister towns being kicked off the public library property. I saw a need. I reached out to the community and was connected to YouthNet. With their help, we created a “Teen Coffee House” that met monthly. The kids were able to meet, perform music, dance, poetry, display their art and “hang out.” Not be kicked out!

When I was asked to join the SOPAC Board, I did not think it was for me. I had no “Board” experience, and besides, my plate was already full. I was a busy mother of three and running a catering business. However, after meeting with some of the wonderful people on the SOPAC Board and staff, I realized this was an opportunity to expand and grow. My plate just got bigger as did my experience.

Food, like music, art, poetry and dance, is a great equalizer. It connects us all. At SOPAC, with the help of fellow Board members, Donna Coallier and Summer Jones, we created, “Savor the Arts,” connecting chefs from surrounding communities, through food, music & dance. It was so much fun!

If we can contribute to the community we live in, we receive in return the gift of giving, learning and growing together. Please find your passion and say “Yes.” Feed the heart and soul, the mind and body of humanity, and we have a beautiful world to live in together.