



**The Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Chicago Area**

Invites you and your guests  
to our

**Annual Dinner and Scholarship Benefit  
Honoring**

**Lois Weisberg**

Former Chicago Commissioner of Cultural Affairs  
Recognized for a life of service to Chicago and support of the arts

**with the 2013 Distinguished Service Award**

**Friday, November 15, 2013**

6:30-7:30 PM • Reception

7:30-8:30 PM • Dinner

8:30-10:00 PM • Presentation of Award and Address

The Casino  
195 East Delaware Place  
Chicago, Illinois

**Please RSVP by November 11**

## Lois Weisberg



PBKACA is proud to honor Lois Weisberg with the Distinguished Service Award for her decades of distinguished public service in Chicago and the greater region.

A 1999 *New Yorker* article by journalist Malcolm Gladwell described the lifelong Chicagoan as a “particularly rare and extraordinary type of person”—a connector.

“She’s the type of person who seems to know everybody,” wrote Gladwell, adding that she used that skill to become “arguably the most important civic activist in the city” and “the epicenter of the [Chicago] city administration.” In 2012, the *Chicago Tribune* called her “the grande dame of Chicago culture.”

As Chicago Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for more than 20 years, Weisberg helped Chicago take on a new and particular beauty. Events including Jazz Fest, Gospel Fest, Cows on Parade, SummerDance, and Gallery 37, to name a few, flourished under Weisberg. She oversaw the transformation of the Chicago Cultural Center from library building into a showcase for more than 700 exhibitions and performances annually and was the mastermind behind festooning Chicago’s famous public art with giant-sized party hats, sports jerseys, helmets, and caps.

In 1975, she founded Friends of the Park, an advocacy group dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving Chicago’s parks and forest preserves. In her youth, Weisberg ran a bit with the Beat Poets and was the editor and publisher of *The Paper*, a weekly literary publication that pioneered the concept of alternative newspapers.

She has received leadership and service awards from the Chicago Historical Society, League of Women Voters, Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois, Harvard Club of Chicago, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois Restaurant Association, Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation, and Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, among many others.

At the PBKACA Annual Dinner and Scholarship Benefit, Weisberg will present “Chicagoans I Have Met Along the Way,” a retrospective of people she has worked with and befriended in a variety of fields, from the arts to politics. Following her remarks, each dinner guest will receive a copy of “Reading to Your Children,” insightful essays written by her late husband and nationally respected civil rights lawyer Bernard Weisberg and her sons, Jacob Weisberg and Joseph Weisberg.