



The 2022 Honorees



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Lee Pelton

CEO and President, The Boston Foundation

Lee Pelton is the CEO & President of the Boston Foundation, one of the nation's leading philanthropic organizations, with \$1.6 billion in assets. He joined the Foundation in June 2021, after serving as President of Emerson College (2011-2021) and Willamette University (1998-2011).

Pelton began his professional academic career at Harvard University, where he earned a Ph.D. in English literature with an academic focus on 19th-century British prose and poetry. He taught English and American literature at Harvard and served as senior tutor at Winthrop House. He later served on the Harvard Board of Overseers and as a vice-chair of its executive committee. After Harvard, Pelton served as dean of the college at Colgate University and Dartmouth College.

A well-respected thought and innovation leader, Pelton was inducted by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce into its Academy of Distinguished Bostonians in 2020. He has also received the Governor's Award from MassHumanities (2020) and the Robert Coard Distinguished Leadership Medal (2021), and was honored by the Eos Foundation with a \$100,000 racial justice grant in his name (2020).

He has also been frequently included on lists of civic leaders in Boston, most recently ranking 11th on Boston magazine's 2021 list of 100 Most Influential Bostonians in his fourth appearance on the list (2014, 2017, 2018). He was also listed as one of the 50 Most Powerful Leaders in Boston by the Boston Business Journal in 2018 and 2020.

He has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Guardian (UK), Forbes, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Color magazine, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, Diversity Journal, and countless media in America and abroad. He has been a guest on National Public Radio (NPR) as well as on NPR affiliates WBUR and GBH, and on television on CBS, ABC and Boston's PBS affiliate television station, GBH2. He has received honorary degrees from the Urban College of Boston, Wichita State University and Tokyo International University.

Over the years, Pelton has been active in several higher education associations and cultural organizations including the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education (past chair), the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of American Colleges & Universities and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. In addition to his service as a Harvard Overseer, he has served as a member of the Harvard University Graduate School Alumni Council, the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility, Harvard Magazine, Board of Incorporators and several Harvard Visiting Committees. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce (executive committee, nominating & governance committee, co-chair), and on the Board of Trustees of public media pioneer GBH (executive, finance and compensation committees) and the Barr Foundation, one of the nation's leading philanthropic organizations, with more than \$3 billion in assets.



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CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Lee Michael Kennedy

President and CEO, Lee Kennedy Co., Inc.

Lee Kennedy Company is a full-service construction firm providing feasibility analysis, preconstruction, construction management, and general contracting services to the Academic, Interiors, Healthcare/Life Sciences, Commercial Development, Historic Restoration, Hotel/Residential, and Retail markets. Under the direction of Lee Michael Kennedy, President and CEO, Lee Kennedy Co., Inc. continues to be widely regarded as one of New England's finest general contractors and has a strong reputation for client service and quality work. The company currently has annual volume of approximately \$600 million and approximately 250 employees.

Lee works closely with the executive management team to establish and implement the company's strategic vision and direction as well as provide everyday leadership. He focuses most of his time in three areas: client relationships, leadership development, and community involvement.

Lee supports many community and social causes. He has served and supported the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester for over 20 years, currently serving as Chairman of the Board. In 2021, he was named co-chair of the Boston Arts Academy Honors event and an Honoree in 2022. He also serves on the Board or Executive Committee for organizations such as the Claddagh Fund, College Bound Dorchester and the Neighborhood House Charter School, to name a few. Lee is also heavily involved in organizations such as Urban Land Institute, Boston Architectural College and UMass Boston's Board of Visitors.



The 2022 Honorees



VISUAL ARTS

Bryan Rafanelli

Founder and Chief Creative Officer, Rafanelli Events

Bryan Rafanelli serves as Founder and Chief Creative Officer of Rafanelli Events, where he works hand-in-hand with his clients to transform their visions into unforgettable experiences. Known best for his customized approach to every project, Rafanelli marries an exquisite sense of style with careful attention to detail to ensure each event is truly exceptional.

In the past 26 years, Rafanelli Events has produced more than 2,000 events in 50 cities, 23 states, and 9 countries. These range in size from 15 to 15,000 attendees. Since inception, Rafanelli has built a strong reputation with non-profit organizations by expertly articulating the message of each organization through a personalized experience.

Rafanelli's philanthropic work is as integral to him as his "day job." He serves on the regional board of the US Fund for UNICEF, on the board of directors of Camp Harbor View, Boys & Girls Club of Boston, and Huntington Theatre and on the Advisory Committee of Mass General Hospital for Children. Additionally, his clients include the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the American Red Cross, the 92nd Street Y, Americares, PEN America, and Children's Aid, to name a few.

Rafanelli has built a business around his personal philosophy — that every event is a unique creative challenge deserving of a one-of-a-kind approach. Rafanelli's team consists of strategic thinkers who listen to, respect and understand some of the smartest companies and strongest brands in the world. Rafanelli Events' experiences are truly innovative, delivering clients their version of perfection while providing the highest level of service.

Rafanelli's clients include Fortune 500 families, public figures, and successful entrepreneurs. Rafanelli Events also specializes in destination and private events, and corporate gatherings.

Bryan released his first book in the Fall of 2019, through Rizzoli. The book, titled "A Great Party - Designing The Perfect Celebration," with the foreword by Chelsea Clinton, shares Bryan's secrets for creating unforgettable parties, soirées, and gatherings.



The 2022 Honorees



FASHION

Kobi Halperin

Creative Director, Kobi Halperin and Ungaro Paris

For the women who “celebrate getting dressed every day,” Kobi is known for his unique designs and his love for details. Deeply inspired by his Eastern European roots and heritage, Kobi’s collections are marked with a feeling of warm tradition felt in the handcrafted touch and workmanship that embody his aesthetic.

Born and raised in Israel, Kobi studied and received his B.F.A from Shenkar College of Engineering and Design. Upon graduating, Kobi moved to New York where he became the Executive Creative Director at Elie Tahari for 13 years and the Executive Creative Director at Kenneth Cole Productions for 3 years.

In 2015, Kobi launched his eponymous ready-to-wear label. The label embodies a European sensibility and is recognized by its crafted artisan details and modern femininity. With a design philosophy that aims to elevate the everyday, In 2016, Kobi became a member of the CFDA.

Kobi started designing for his longtime favorite French label, UNGARO, in 2021. His first collection for the label will be Resort 21/22.

Kobi’s other passion in life is mentoring and developing the future of fashion. He is actively involved with cultivating his alma mater’s emerging fashion students, being a mentor to Savannah College of Art and Design students, and being a role model to his two daughters, Mika and Gali.