Symposium Agenda

8:00 Breakfast and Check-in

9:00 Welcome, Opening Remarks, Screening of 50th Anniversary Film, a Firelight Media production directed by Stanley Nelson

Elizabeth Alexander, president, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

9:45 Museums of the Future

Louise Bernard, museum director, Obama Presidential Center

Theaster Gates, artist

Michael Govan, director, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Mariët Westermann, vice chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi (moderator)

11:00 The Possibilities and Challenges of Higher Learning Today

Mark Becker, president, Georgia State University

Rebecca Ginsburg, director, Education Justice Project, University of Illinois

Jonathan Holloway, provost, Northwestern University

Ruth Simmons, president, Prairie View A&M University

Armando Bengochea, senior program officer, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (moderator)

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Knowledge, Media, and Meaning

Sylvester Johnson, founding director, Virginia Tech Center for Humanities

Maria Popova, editor, Brain Pickings

1:30 The American Diversity Project – Past, Present, Future

Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Michele Norris, journalist and founder, The Race Card Project

2:30 Language, Performance, and Democracy

Natalie Diaz, poet

Bill T. Jones, artistic director, New York Live Arts

Jennifer Koh, musician

Lisa Lucas, artistic director, National Book Foundation

Emil Kang, program director, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (moderator)

3:45 Expanding the American Story

Judy Baca, artist and professor, University of California, Los Angeles

Brent Leggs, executive director, National Trust African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Michael Murphy, founding principal and executive director, MASS Design Group

Elizabeth Alexander, president, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (moderator)

5:15 Closing Performance

Anna Deavere Smith, actress, playwright, and professor

6:00 Reception

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50th anniversary symposium

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary with extraordinary scholars, museum directors, educators, artists, and influencers in the arts, humanities, and higher education.