

## Join us for a day of celebration

Monday, November 18  
8:00am – 7:00pm  
The New-York Historical Society  
170 Central Park West  
New York, NY

Please RSVP online:  
[mellon50.planningpod.com](http://mellon50.planningpod.com)

The event is free.  
Seating is limited and registration is required.

## 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.

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*Special Performance  
by Anna Deavere Smith*

## 50 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**, executive 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**