



Elizabeth Alexander

President, [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#)

A poet, educator, memoirist, scholar, and cultural advocate, Elizabeth Alexander has previously served as the Director of Creativity and Free Expression at the Ford Foundation and taught at Columbia University, Yale University, Smith College, and the University of Chicago. An author or co-author of fourteen books, Elizabeth was twice a finalist for the Pulitzer

Prize: for poetry with *American Sublime* and for biography with her 2015 memoir, *The Light of the World*. In 2009, Elizabeth composed and delivered a poem, "Praise Song for the Day," for President Barack Obama's inauguration.