

# NONPROFIT SEMINAR

CENTER FOR  
NONPROFIT STRATEGY  
AND MANAGEMENT

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## A Conversation with Dr. Earl Lewis, President of The Andrew Mellon Foundation

Thursday, February 23, 2017  
4:00-6:00PM

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Dr. Earl Lewis** **President, The Andrew Mellon Foundation**

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Earl Lewis became the sixth President of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in March 2013. Under his guidance, the Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to the humanities, the arts, and higher education by emphasizing the importance of continuity and change.

A noted social historian, Mr. Lewis has held faculty appointments at the University of California at Berkeley (1984–89), and the University of Michigan (1989–2004). He has championed the importance of diversifying the academy, enhancing graduate education, re-visioning the liberal arts, exploring the role of digital tools for learning, and connecting universities to their communities.

Prior to joining The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mr. Lewis served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies at Emory University. As Provost, Lewis led academic affairs and academic priority setting for the university.

He is the author and co-editor of seven books, including *Our Compelling Interests: The Value of Diversity for Democracy and a Prosperous Society* (with Nancy Cantor, Princeton University Press, 2016), *The African American Urban Experience: Perspectives from the Colonial Period to the Present* (with Joe William Trotter and Tera W. Hunter, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004); *Defending Diversity: Affirmative Action at the*

*University of Michigan* (with Jeffrey S. Lehman and Patricia Gurin, University of Michigan Press, 2004); *Love on Trial: An American Scandal in Black and White* (with Heidi Ardizzone, WW Norton, 2001); the award-winning *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African Americans* (with Robin D.G. Kelley, Oxford University Press, 2000); *In Their Own Interests: Race, Class and Power in 20th Century Norfolk* (University of California Press, 1991); as well as the 11-volume *The Young Oxford History of African Americans* (with Robin D.G. Kelley, Oxford University Press, 1995–1997); and the award-winning book series *American Crossroads* (University of California Press).

A native of Tidewater, Virginia, Mr. Lewis earned an undergraduate degree in history and psychology from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and a PhD in history from the University of Minnesota. He has been a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2008.

In 2016, Mr. Lewis was named an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Carnegie Mellon University. He was previously awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Rutgers University-Newark and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Dartmouth College in 2015; he also received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Concordia College in 2002; Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota in 2001; and the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award from the University of Michigan in 1999.

## **David Birdsell**

### **Dean of the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs**

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David Birdsell, Marxe Dean of the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College and Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Effectiveness, has centered his academic work on the nexus of communication, media, and information technology in politics, government and nonprofit administration. An expert on political debating and widely published on communication theory and practice, David is a regular guest commentator on debates and other aspects of political communication for television and print media. His work has been supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the IBM Endowment for the Study of Business and Government, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, the New York Community Trust, the JPMorganChase Foundation, the United Way of New York City, the Markle Foundation, and other funders. David is President of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, and serves on NASPAA's Executive Council. He chairs the boards of Governance Matters and of the New York Federal Statistics Research Data Center. He is a member of the board of the New York Council of Nonprofits. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

David received his BA and MA degrees from the University of Virginia and his Ph.D. in Public Communication from the University of Maryland.

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