



James Allen Smith

James Allen Smith is Vice President and Director of Research and Education at the Rockefeller Archive Center. His career has spanned academia and philanthropy.

Before joining the Archive Center in 2008, he held the Waldemar A. Nielsen Chair in Philanthropy at Georgetown University where he taught about philanthropy and civil society. Prior to that, he worked with the donor to establish the Howard Gilman Foundation and was its first executive director. He was one of the founders of and served for eight years as board president of the Center for Arts and Culture. He was also a founding board member of the Creative Capital Foundation. He is a trustee emeritus of Colgate University, his undergraduate alma mater. He earned a Ph.D. in medieval history from Brown University and studied as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Ghent (Belgium). He is the author of three books, including *The Idea Brokers: Think Tanks and the Rise of the New Policy Elite*, and has written widely about philanthropy, civil society, and cultural policy.