Kathleen Flenniken, the 2012–2014 Washington State Poet Laureate, holds engineering degrees from Washington State University and the University of Washington, as well as a Master of Fine Arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University.

President of Floating Bridge Press, a nonprofit organization dedicated to publishing Washington poets, she teaches poetry writing to students of all ages, with the support of arts organizations including WSAC, Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools program, Jack Straw Productions, and Northwest Voices.

Her new collection, *Plume* (University of Washington Press), is a meditation on the Hanford Nuclear Site. Her first book, *Famous* (University of Nebraska Press), won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association.