

## Dear Readers,

It's been another weird winter! We've been in this "new" COVID-19 pandemic reality long enough that fresh shapes and directions for our work are beginning to emerge. Along with profound personal losses and professional disruptions, the last two years (!) have given museum professionals time to pause, reconsider our priorities, and shift our strategies. At the winter NAME Leadership Team retreat – all on Zoom, once again – we dug into AAM's recently released Strategic Framework, which outlines the organization's aspirational goals for the next three years. The NAME team discussed where our work was well aligned with the new priorities, and what we might want to shift in the coming years.

Two of the framework's goals that most resonate with me are 1) celebrate, strengthen, and connect the museum professional community in all its diversity and 2) support museum professionals in learning from each other, managing through crisis, and rebuilding strong, relevant, and sustainable institutions.

To inform our planning as we focus on these, we'd like to hear from you, our readers. What do you think NAME could do better to support our members in building a more diverse and creative exhibitions field? How can we better support each other? We will be rolling out some new evaluation and assessment tools at our upcoming programs, and I hope to hear your responses to these and other questions. Stay tuned.

While some of our longstanding initiatives, like the annual Excellence in Exhibitions Competition, are still on hold and under review, we will have a lot to celebrate at the 2022 AAM Annual Meeting & MusemExpo this spring. I'm excited to relax and network with you in historic Boston, whether it's catching up in the exhibition hall or chatting before one of the exhibit-related sessions. And please consider attending the NAME party and luncheon, where you can connect with other exhibition professionals and hear about hot topics in the field. You can also join the conversation on our social media, or drop by a monthly virtual Coffee Chat (these and other programs are listed on the Events tab on NAME's website).

I hope this beautiful issue of *Exhibition* sparks new ideas, connects you with others through conversation (or debate), and encourages you to build your practice to be more relevant for, and inclusive of, your family audiences.

Warmest wishes,



**Penny Jennings**  
President

