



Dear readers,

As we put the finishing touches on this issue, the International Council of Museums, ICOM, is preparing to vote on a new definition for “museum.” Their proposed new definition begins, “Museums are democratising, inclusive and polyphonic spaces for critical dialogue about the pasts and the futures.” In other words, places that bridge our individual backgrounds and provide space for people with shared interests to meet, to discuss and debate the past, present, and future.

The leadership of NAME would also like ours to be a bridging endeavor, building a diverse community of practice and providing a platform for conversation and debate about the challenges we face in our current political and social climate. As we prepare for our winter leadership meeting, we are building a more transparent and inclusive recruitment and nomination process to fill open positions for the coming 2020–22 term. Our goal is to increase the diversity of backgrounds and experiences on our team, and to continue to consider the diversity of our members as we plan and produce professional development opportunities in the coming year.

As I write, the 2020 conference session proposal process is under way! We hope that this issue captures some of the potential for museum exhibitions to transform our

institutions’ cultures, or build new bonds with communities. We hope to hear your feedback on the topic on our Facebook page and in sessions and events – both at your regional conferences and in San Francisco in May! Here’s to another great season of learning and sharing together.

Sincerely,

Penny Jennings
President

