



from the president

Eric Siegel
President

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Dear NAME Colleagues,

Pessimists and misanthropes say that all life is like junior high school, with its frustrated social aspirations, cliquishness, and suppressed emotional turmoil. Somebody, somewhere, must have been happy in middle school, in with the in crowd, invited to all the parties. Well, I wasn't, but I have to say that becoming President of NAME felt like being invited to sit at the cool kids' table. Four years of excellence by my predecessor, Phyllis Rabineau, and a thoughtful and imaginative nominating process, have resulted in a NAME board that represents the diversity of the exhibition field. Look at the current Board members and you will see a roster of silverbacks and emerging leaders in all areas of the field from management to development to design. We are particularly glad that a change in the SPC rules has allowed "independents," or professionals who are not currently employed in museums, to become officers. Revising that anachronistic rule, with thoughtful safeguards against conflict of interest, is but one of the many important changes introduced by AAM's new leadership.

I hope that you have noticed the changes in the **Exhibitionist** over the last three issues. After years of heroic volunteer editorial, design, and project management most recently led by Beth Redmond-Jones, our new editor Gretchen Jennings brings focus, consistency, and imaginative content to these pages. She has recruited a stellar editorial board, listed in the back of the magazine, who will continue to build on the success of the **Exhibitionist**.

We are glad that you are among the 850 plus members of NAME, as we have big plans for the coming year: an exciting retreat in Monterey, California to share strategies on creativity and collaboration with leaders from fields outside the museum; updated web content; and a roster of great sessions and events at AAM in Philadelphia. As foreign and alien as the cool kids table may have been to most of us, it is great to be with creative, energetic, and generous colleagues. Unlike junior high school, everybody who shares our interest in exhibitions is welcome and encouraged to join.

Sincerely,