



from the president

Eric Siegel
President

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Dear NAME Members,

At the 2008 World Science Center Congress in Toronto, there were two related and resounding themes sounded by virtually every presenter. First, all centers of informal learning, of which museums are an integral part, must engage in the global effort to mitigate climate change. Second, we must learn to work more effectively and efficiently. There must be more arrows in our quiver than the large scale, resource intensive projects that have been the principal focus of the exhibition field for decades.

We think that the value of the **Exhibitionist** is that it is written by and for practitioners, and balances the theoretical with our daily work of exhibition design, development, and fabrication. We made that explicit in the last issue with the introduction of the "Nuts and Bolts" column, which will continue to be a regular feature in upcoming issues. Please do let us know if you have ideas for this section, or for the **Exhibitionist** as a whole.

NAME has been working on several fronts to make substantial contributions to the exhibition field. First, we had an excellent slate of sessions accepted for the American Association of Museums conference in Philadelphia this year. (See the end of this issue for a listing.) We are also hosting a killer party at the Painted Bride, one of Philly's most storied performance venues; other events sessions include the Creativity lunch and the business breakfast. These are great opportunities to meet your colleagues and engage in building our profession.

We have developed, with AAM, the Creativity and Collaboration (C2) retreat in Monterey, CA from May 31 through June 2. It will be held at Asilomar, which is an historic conference center overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We are bringing together expert practitioners of team building, collaboration, and creative practice from Burning Man, Industrial Light and Magic, the world of large scale participatory gaming (Ken Eklund who build World Without Oil), and the museum community. The goal is to share insights about fostering creativity in collaborative environments, a critical skill for the exhibition field. For more information, you can go to the AAM site (<http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/creativityandcollaboration.cfm>) or to <http://createcollaborate.org/>. We hope you will consider participating.

Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, and to Jim Spadicini of Ideum, our new web site should be live at www.name-aam.org by the time you read this. We have more work to do to get the site to be as rich and useful as we would like, and are currently recruiting volunteers who will be responsible for creating and aggregating content. If you are interested, feel free to contact me at my email above. We also stay in touch with members via email and through a Yahoo group called NAME-AAM. Please feel free to join in the lively discussion there.

See you in Philadelphia! Please introduce yourself to me or to other Board members if you are new to NAME. We like to have faces with the NAME-ers.