



from the president

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**Phyllis Rabineau**  
President

## Dear NAME Colleagues,

**O**n Thursday, August 2, I attended the summer meeting of the Standing Professional Committee Council. It was my first chance to interact with AAM's new CEO, Ford Bell, and to hear about two new initiatives that are being launched by the AAM Board. The first will focus on making AAM a more effective advocate for museums within local communities with particular emphasis on helping museums gain recognition for their value to children and to schools. The second program will concentrate on the future of museums themselves by taking a broad look at the needs of institutions and their constituent professions. Ford's excitement about AAM's opportunities, his accessibility, and his eagerness to listen were all very positive signals for the future.

Each SPC chair gave a brief update on the activities of the past year, and looked forward to 2008. My report listed the following NAME highlights for 2007:

- We completed our branding/publications projects with the website re-design and launch, as well as new templates for stationery
- We welcomed Gretchen Jennings as the first-ever paid editor for **Exhibitionist**
- Our first-ever sponsorship program was a roaring success!
- Through a collaborative effort with other committees, we completely revised the guidelines for the Excellence in Exhibition Competition. The success of these efforts was reflected in an increase in the number of entries, and dramatically improved ratings for the program session at the Chicago meeting.
- We added a new event—a pre-conference tour and discussion—to our “menu” for the annual meeting.
- For the second consecutive year, a NAME representative—Jim Volkert—facilitated a key program segment for the summer seminar conducted at Cranbrook by the Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD).

Looking toward FY 2008, these are activities we can anticipate:

- NAME has begun working with AAM to develop a national exhibition seminar to be presented in 2009. Board members Jenny-Sayre Ramberg and Darcie Fohrman are taking the lead on this project.
- In the spring of 2008, we will partner with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums to present an exhibition workshop; Board member Aaron Goldblatt is playing a key role in organizing this program.
- Sean Duran stepped into the role of facilitating NAME's session at the SEGD Cranbrook seminar.
- As early in the year as possible, we will implement an e-communications package for NAME members. We will also publish our biannual membership directory.
- In late winter, we will conduct Board elections and begin the transition to a new leadership team that will be headed by our current Vice President, Eric Siegel. If you are interested in playing a role in NAME, please get in touch with me at [rabineau@chicagohistory.org](mailto:rabineau@chicagohistory.org).
- We will conduct NAME's second-ever sponsorship program, and will work toward continuing improvement of the Excellence in Exhibition Competition.

I'm looking forward to closing out my term as NAME President on a busy and productive note, and then enjoying a long rest!