



## Dear Readers,

This spring and summer have seen our personal and professional lives in upheaval. Museums and gathering places closed, and many may not reopen if they can't find new business models. All sorts of transitions came wrapped up with the COVID-19 pandemic: figuring out how to connect and communicate in new ways online, and for many, furloughs or layoffs compounding the challenges of sheltering in place. Many historically white institutions—including museums—are also experiencing an awakening to the systemic injustices of racism and colonialism and are seeking healing and change. And, as I write this, wildfires and hurricanes attributable to climate change threaten lives on both coasts.

What can NAME do about any of this? This spring and summer our volunteers have stepped up in many ways, and I'm grateful to all: shifting our annual meeting events online and organizing weekly Zoom check-ins for colleagues to offer one another solutions and support. We retooled our budget to offer AAM a larger donation to support its COVID response, including reduced meeting registration costs and a new, lower membership rate for museum workers affected by layoffs. The members of NAME's Leadership Team also reaffirmed our commitment to use our privilege as creators and storytellers to become more aware of, interrupt, and work toward dismantling various forms and systems of oppression.

The thing I admire about my exhibition colleagues is that, as creative professionals committed to engagement and education, we take on new challenges with enthusiasm, determination, and delight. We are problem solvers and solution seekers. I'm hopeful that by challenging one another, and sharing ideas and innovations, we can find new models for including more voices, inspiring communities to grow stronger, and learning from these experiences.

With deep gratitude,

**Penny Jennings**  
President