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Happy Spring to you all! By the time this issue hits your mailbox, I hope that bulbs are springing up, and the smell of warmer weather is amongst you.

Now that I am back in a museum and overseeing an incredible public programs staff (if I do say so myself) I am always looking for articles, books, and blog posts to share with my team and to generate conversation. So, for this issue of *Exhibits NewsLine*, I decided to share some of the blogs that I peruse. Blogs have given a new group of influencers a voice in our profession, shaping ideas, trends, and discourse. Some of these blogs may be old standbys for you, and others may be new, but I hope they will give you some insight into new ideas, challenge old ones, and give you new concepts to ponder.

Museum 2.0 (<http://museumtwo.blogspot.com>)

Nina Simon started this blog in November 2006, and I personally have been reading it ever since. Anything you ever wanted to know about participatory experiences, this is where you find it. Nina has an incredible insight into visitors and brings connections of game design, multimedia, visitors wants vs. needs, ethics, visualizations, you name it, she connects it and makes us all think a little bit differently about visitors and participatory experiences.

Interactivate: Understanding Audiences—Engaging Visitors (<http://reganforrest.com>)

This is a blog that I have recently started following. Regan Forrest explores an exhibition's design and how this affects a visitor's experience. This is something that I have personally been exploring over the past few years (particularly for visitors on the autism spectrum), and it's interesting

for me to read her insights on design. Regan has an article in this issue as well.

ObjectIDEA (<http://objectidea.blogspot.com/?view=magazine>)

ObjectIDEA is the brainchild of Matt Kirchman, whose posts focus on exhibitions and museums that he has visited, providing insightful commentary on the exhibition content and design, and where one or both of these elements falls short.

Museum Commons (<http://www.museumcommons.com>)

Gretchen Jennings explores, as she says, “sticky and difficult” issues in museums—lack of acknowledgement of LGBT artists, sexual harassment, empathy, and open authority—any topic that you hear colleagues discussing at the bars and restaurants at a national or international conference, but not in the conference sessions themselves. Gretchen (who blogs in her own name and not as a representative of NAME) has an incredible insight into issues and is not afraid to open the door to conversation, and hopefully to the maturity of our profession.

Museum Geek (<http://museumgeek.wordpress.com>)

Suse Cairns is a self-proclaimed museum geek who writes about museum issues, technology, and ideas. She encourages readers to debate and challenge one another. Her focus on technology provides those of us who do not deal with this topic on a daily basis a great place to read up and explore issues around technology and visitor engagement.

Exhibit Tricks (<http://blog.orselli.net>)

This is one of my “always read” blogs. Paul Orselli writes about visitors, technology, prototyping, museum

conferences, exhibit design, and more. He often profiles museum colleagues and other interesting people. Paul always has something new and different to share.

Museum Questions (<http://museumquestions.com>)

Rebecca Herz has dedicated her blog to “questions about museums and thoughts on creating a reflective practice.” What I enjoy about Rebecca’s blog is how reflective practice can play into educational programming, evaluation, and museum administration.

Intentional Museum (<http://intentionalmuseum.com>)

Intentional Museum is a blog by the staff of Randi Korn & Associates. As quoted in the first blog post in January 2013, “The platform for our practice and the inspiration for our postings is the Cycle of Intentional Practice.” The posts since then have built on this Intentional Practice philosophy and bring up many important concepts about evaluation and exhibition development and design.

Thinking About Museums (<http://exhibitdev.wordpress.com>)

Written by Ed Rodley with a great deal of humor, his tag line is “thoughts on museums, content, design, and why they matter.” Ed brings discussion and insights on the topics of technology and museums, experience design, participation, active learning, 3D printers, and selfies.

Two blogs on the lighter side of things.

Jake’s Bones (<http://www.jakes-bones.com>)

Prior to starting my current position at the San Diego Natural History Museum, a close friend sent me a link to 12-year-old Jake McGowan-Lowe’s blog about bone collecting. My friend told me, jokingly, that “maybe I could learn something

before I had to hang out with all those paleontologists.” Well, thanks to this friend (who will remain nameless) I have. Here is a kid who has been collecting bones and skulls since he was six, explores the outdoors of Scotland where he lives, and blogs about it every weekend. Jake tells us about how he puts together his most recent articulated skeleton or describes a recent bone hunting hike—this kid is a curator in the making!

Museum People’s Tattoos (<http://museumpeopletattoos.blogspot.com>)

Museum People’s Tattoos is a blog project that Paul Orselli and I put together. We thought that starting a blog where museum professionals can share an image of their tattoo and the story behind it would be fun. You can read about a dinosaur, manta ray, bat, cosmic rays, mandala, and microphone—a little bit of everything.

And finally...

Museum Minute (<http://museumminute.wordpress.com>)

Museum Minute is a blog about museums for museum professionals and museum enthusiasts. Written and managed by Jamie Glavic, you can find insights on best practices, news, and people that “make the museum profession the dynamic, challenging and culturally significant vocation that it is.” And, as an extension of this article, Jamie has a “Meet a Museum Blogger” series where you can learn about some of the other museum blogs that I didn’t have room to mention here. Check it out at <http://museumminute.wordpress.com/category/meet-a-museum-blogger/>.

I hope this issue of *Exhibits NewsLine* helps you explore new aspects of the exhibition and museum world, and opens your mind to new ideas. Cheers! ✨