



Dear friends,

This issue's call for papers went out just before the presidential election. It posed a critical question, one that feels even more important today: *In an age of conflict and uncertainty, marked by both an acute sense of crisis and by a surging commitment to change, how can exhibitions speak to the issues of our times and contribute to dialogues about them?*

Our authors respond by sharing projects that focus on a broad range of contemporary issues – climate change, human rights, mass violence, and more. In each of their articles, you'll find strategies and lessons learned that we hope will be of help as you or your organization tackle the “now.”

You'll also find calls to action. Our authors encourage us to be facilitators instead of teachers. To engage in radical collaboration with our communities. To value the *processes* that build real relationships as much as the *products* they produce. They urge us to listen deeply. To speak about the unspoken. To tell the whole story. And to be all in – not just as individuals, but as institutions.

Perhaps most importantly, these articles speak to the unique power of exhibitions to engage, illuminate, provoke, and inspire – to serve as commons/forums/public stages for contemporary issues, issues that by impacting some, impact us all. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King so eloquently wrote in his August 1963 “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” we “are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

Ellen Snyder-Grenier
Editor

