

Dear Readers,

Over the past few years, AAM has received feedback from thousands of museum professionals (including, perhaps, yourself!) about how we can strengthen our support for you. Three areas were consistently cited as top needs: connection, learning, and leadership opportunities. In response, earlier this year, AAM announced a \$1 million investment in an expanded professional development, volunteering, and networking program for the museum community.

This program will enhance how AAM serves our individual members and how we support community building based on job functions and common interests, as we previously did through the Professional Networks (PNs). Building upon this strong legacy of volunteerism, the program will continue to offer opportunities for learning, connection, and leadership through an updated and more equitable structure designed to remove existing barriers to participation, provide more access to resources, engage many more – and more diverse – voices, and center people over processes.

We recognize that this reflects a change for the dedicated individuals who selflessly gave their time and talents to build and sustain the National Association for Museum Exhibition (NAME), which has been a valued part of AAM for more than 40 years. We hope for your continued engagement in the updated structure as we also welcome many more members of the exhibitions community through national leadership opportunities.

As for the future of *Exhibition*, we are committed to partnering together with the current volunteer and

contract team on production through 2024. As we navigate the evolution of PNs into AAM's new structure, it is our hope that production of the journal will continue into 2025 and beyond. Above all, we believe that *Exhibition* is an incredible asset to the museum community and by working together it can continue for many years to come.

As we reflect on NAME's legacy and the impact of *Exhibition*, we want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the exhibitions community who have been involved in NAME since its inception – and especially those who contributed their time and talents to the journal, first published in 1981. We are very grateful to volunteer managing editor Ian Kerrigan, Exhibits Newsline editor Jenny-Sayre Ramberg, the editorial advisors, editor Jeanne Normand Goswami, designer Charita Patamikakorn (koolgirlposse), NAME leadership, and the authors, contributors, reviewers, and readers.

We look forward to connecting with you in new and engaging ways, including through the 2024 AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo in Baltimore, May 16–19. Stay tuned for more information to come – and please reach out at https://bit.ly/aam-volunteer to get involved!

Warmly,

Brooke E. Leonard

Interim CEO, American Alliance of Museums

Fall 2023 exhibition

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