



## Message from the Chair

Dear EdCom Members,

EdCom has witnessed a great deal of change in the past few years with both the realignment of the Professional Networks and the reorganization and streamlining of our board structure. Now that the dust has largely settled, the board took a day and a half at our annual winter meeting to assess the progress of our current strategic agenda and the status of our regular programs to refocus the agenda for the coming few years.

The board had a robust and lively discussion and was joined by both AAM president Ford Bell and Elizabeth Merritt from AAM's Center of the Future of Museums. Throughout the meeting, a theme of EdCom's important role in the advancement of museum education standards and best practices and the promotion of "next practices" by our innovative colleagues in the field reoccurred.

This focus of "Best & Next" will be the guiding vision for EdCom in its refreshed strategic agenda. We are developing an action plan that 1) utilizes the new board committee and volunteer structure to gather and share stories from the field and 2) leverages EdCom awards, conference sessions and professional development opportunities to recognize "Best & Next" practices nationally.

We'll be sharing more about the strategic agenda in the coming months and at our Annual Meeting in Seattle this May. And, as always, if you have comments or thoughts please feel free to contact me at [chair@edcom.org](mailto:chair@edcom.org).

Sincerely,

Nathan Richie  
EdCom Chair  
Director, Golden History Museums  
Golden, Colorado

## Coming Soon: Board Elections

Within the next week, you'll have the opportunity to vote for a new slate of chairs-elect for EdCom. Last year, EdCom moved from a contested election to a slate, nominated by the current board members and elected up or down by the membership. This year, we'll be voting on chairs-elect of the annual conference, communications and membership committees, as well as the position of secretary.

## February 2014

### In this Issue

[Message from the Chair](#)

[Coming Soon: Board Elections](#)

[Regional Update: Midwest](#)

[Museums Advocacy Day](#)

[AAM Annual Meeting](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

[Calling You!](#)

### Calendar

#### March 3

[Annual Meeting](#) Early Bird  
Registration deadline

#### March 15

[Sustainability Excellence Award](#) submission  
deadline

#### April 1

[Muse Awards](#) submission  
deadline

#### April 11

[Publications Competition](#)  
submission deadline

#### April 30

[Recruiting, Selecting and Placing Museum Volunteers](#)  
Live webinar

These new chairs-elect will assume their seats on the board after the AAM Annual Meeting in May. Many of the nominees come from our new pool of volunteers, and if you would like to be considered for nomination, we encourage you to sign up to volunteer when the next call for volunteers goes out. If you have any questions about elections, the nominations process or how to become a board member, please contact [edcomweb@gmail.com](mailto:edcomweb@gmail.com).

## Regional Update: Midwest

*Each newsletter includes a regional report spotlighting a few events in that region. This edition features the Midwest region.*

### Family Paleontologist Camp

The Falls of the State Park in Clarksville, Indiana, in partnership with Bellarmine University, offers Family Paleontologist Camp each July. During this three-day career camp, 11 children (ages 12–16) learn about becoming a paleontologist through lessons, field work, collecting, identifying and interpreting fossils. Parents also participate in all activities.

### Inclusive Arts Programs Through The Kennedy Center/VSA Arts

The Dennon Museum Center, under a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/VSA Arts Access for Kids, is providing programs for 130 students with disabilities from the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD). This program includes an educational performance, a gallery tour and art project, and a storytelling program. An additional 30 general education students will join groups as they explore the exhibition, Art of the Sleeping Bear Dunes: Transforming Nature into Art. Programs will take place October 2013–May 2014.

Deb Nelson of TBAISD states, “The benefits of inclusive, collaborative experiences like this project provides reach beyond the present experience. Students of all abilities experiencing the arts together has the potential of developing healthy communities who appreciate not only the arts but their own diversity.”

### Call for Midwest Regional and State Reps

Do you feel that you have your finger on the pulse of exceptional museum education practices in the Midwest? Are you interested in leading a network of area colleagues? If so, consider becoming the EdCom Midwest Regional Rep or state rep for Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri or Ohio. Please contact [Leah Fox](#), EdCom membership chair.

## Museums Advocacy Day

The sixth annual [Museums Advocacy Day](#) is coming up in just a few days, Feb. 24–25, in Washington, DC. We’re excited to welcome museum professionals, volunteers, students, business owners, board members and many others from around the country to the nation’s capital to advocate to our elected officials about why museums are essential.

While Museums Advocacy Day only occurs once a year, there are many ways you can stay involved in advocacy for museums all year long. Also, advocacy doesn’t just take place at the national level: it

is vital to make sure our voices are heard at the state and local level as well. Check out AAM's website to learn how you can [take action](#), find out how to [send letters](#) to your elected officials, read current [issue briefs](#) related to museums or [invite an elected official](#) to visit your museum and learn first-hand why museums matter.

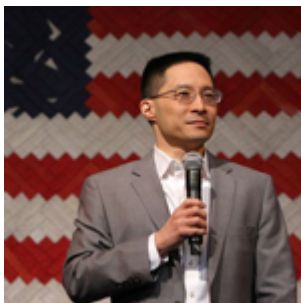
Are you attending Museums Advocacy Day? Would you like to share your experiences with EdCom members in the next edition of the newsletter? Drop an e-mail to [edcomweb@gmail.com](mailto:edcomweb@gmail.com).

## AAM Annual Meeting: EdCom Events Update

Connect with us in Seattle! Early bird registration for the [2014 Annual Meeting](#) in Seattle ends on **March 3**. [Register today](#) and purchase your tickets for two terrific opportunities to connect with your colleagues in EdCom.

Join us at the Pacific Science Center on Sunday, May 18, for our annual reception before heading over to the Alliance Opening Party located just a few blocks away at the EMP Museum.

The EdCom luncheon is just two days later on Tuesday, May 20. This year's program features a conversation with author, educator and civic entrepreneur, Eric Liu. As the founder and CEO of Citizen University, he promotes and teaches the art of great citizenship through a portfolio of national programs.



According to Eric, this is a time for citizen problem-solving, and we as a society need to reimagine what we can do to make a unum out of the pluribus. Each of our institutions is focused on learning outcomes that are tied to very specific disciplines. But is there a broader set of educational objectives that we share? What role can and should museums play in fostering the sort of civic learning that underpins widespread participation in public life. How can institutions ranging from art, history and science museums to zoos and aquariums contribute to a society wherein all citizens are empowered to tackle the challenges facing our communities? And what lessons can we learn from like-minded professionals working in seemingly dissimilar fields? We invite you to join the conversation!

## Meet the Board

### Elissa Frankle, Communications Committee Chair

#### Why are you involved in EdCom?

When I was an intern, I volunteered for the Communications Chair and wrote EdCom's first social media plan. Four years later, I've stuck around long enough to be a full-fledged board member. I'm involved in EdCom because I believe in the educational mission of museums with all my heart, and want to be part of ensuring that educators and education always have a seat at the table.

**What's your day job?**

I manage social media for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**What is the future of museum education, in 10 words or fewer?**

Participatory, civic-minded, decentralized, empowered, digital without sacrificing analogue.

**What advice do you have for new museum education professionals?**

Raise your hand, get involved, speak your mind. The field needs your voice!

**What is one fun fact about yourself?**

In my copious spare time, I sing with the National Philharmonic Chorale.

**Anthony Pennay, Professional Development Committee Chair Elect****Why are you involved in EdCom?**

To learn about what the brightest people in the field are doing to increase the impact of museum education.

**What's your day job?**

Director of the Annenberg Presidential Learning Center at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library

**What is the future of museum education, in 10 words or fewer?**

Taking it to the Streets

**What advice do you have for new museum education professionals?**

Visit lots of museums, build a network of colleagues beyond your own institution and commit to being a life-long learner.

**What is one fun fact about yourself?**

I once climbed Mt. Fuji at night to see the sun rise from the top of the world.

## Calling You

As your bimonthly newsletter, we want to hear from you! Want to highlight events at your museum or in your community? Is there a burning issue you want to bring to the attention of your colleagues? Or do you have some thoughts to share on museums and museum education? Let us know! E-mail your opinion pieces to [edcomweb@gmail.com](mailto:edcomweb@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter, and we'll share your ideas with the museum education community



American Alliance of Museums  
1575 Eye Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005  
202-289-1818  
www.aam-us.org

Follow us on



[Unsubscribe](#)