



American
Alliance of
Museums

[Events](#)
[Resources](#)
[Membership](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[JobHQ](#)

**EdCom Newsletter:
October 2014**

Chair's Corner

Similar to *Vogue* magazine, the September issue of [Museum](#) was arguably the most important of the year. I'm being facetious, of course, but only a little. The issue focused on education, and it included thoughtful perspectives on Common Core State Standards, the evolution of the museum educator, and the future of the K-12 education system.

An excerpt of a white paper called [Building the Future of Education: Museums and the Learning Ecosystem](#) by Elizabeth Merritt posed a particularly provocative question: *Can museums help forge a common vision of a preferred future for education and play a leadership role in its creation?* The [full report](#) summarizes the insights that came out of a convening organized by AAM's Center for the Future of Museums and The Henry Ford. Check it out! These are the kind of meaty issues affecting our field that EdCom hopes to provide more vehicles for us to talk about.

To that end, “[hang out](#)” with us on October 8 for a virtual conversation on the topic of intentionality featuring our colleagues from the Columbus Museum of Art and the Museum Education Roundtable.



Sarah Jesse
Chair, EdCom
sjesse@lacma.org

In this issue

[Message from the Chair](#)
[What Are You Reading?](#)
[Calling You!](#)
[Awards of Excellence
Spotlight](#)
[One Good Thing](#)
[Meet the Board](#)
[Calendar](#)

**Find us on Facebook,
Twitter and LinkedIn**



Let's Talk About It

Who's ready to think big about museum intentions? And creativity? If you said yes to those questions, then EdCom's October book club chat is the place for you. In collaboration with the Museum Education Roundtable's most recent issue of the *Journal of Museum Education* (JME), this virtual talk will take a closer look at two articles appearing in their publication on museum's intentionality. EdCom chair, Sarah Jesse will talk to JME authors about the Columbus Museum of Art's efforts to “rethink” their museum's focus, revisit their museum's “intentions” in a big way and more thoughtfully articulate their reason for being. In the end, the Museum makes connections to creativity. That's why, whether you are interested in intentionality or creativity, this Book Club Chat is where you'll want to be to talk more about these crucial 21st century concepts.

- [Download](#) the articles for the chat.
- [Learn more](#) about the chat and explore some helpful tips on Google Hangouts.

DATE: Oct. 8

TIME: 2–3 p.m. (ET)

WHERE: [Google Hangouts](#)

This program is FREE to AAM members and non-members. No pre-registration is required.

Presenters

- **Sarah Jesse**, chair, EdCom
- **Beth Maloney**, president, MER
- **Cindy Meyers Foley**, executive assistant director and director of learning and experience, Columbus Museum of Art
- **Rachel Trinkley**, assistant director for education for schools, teachers and docents, Columbus Museum of Art
- **Karleen Gardner**, director of learning and innovation, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MER Board Member)

What Are You Reading?

Each month we ask luminaries in the field what's on their nightstand. This newsletter features Marcella Wells, President of Wells Resource, Inc., and a specialist in interpretive planning, visitor studies and project management.

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

As an introvert by nature but an extrovert by vocation, I was curious from just the title. The author grabbed me in Part One with some rather hilarious discussion of the "Extrovert Ideal." The following three parts of the book are interspersed with relevant academic discussions, as well as practical and highly readable examples and discussion. Throughout the book, I kept reminding myself of all the learning style literature that exists and how we educators must be theoretically promiscuous—love all theories, but be married to none. This book was a compelling and very enjoyable addition to my pile-o-theories from which I draw to be a passionate advocate for visitors.



Awards of Excellence Spotlight

EdCom has recognized outstanding contributions to museum education since 1983. Over the next four newsletters we will highlight the accomplishments of this year's award winners. If you know a person, program, or resource worthy of recognition, keep them in mind for our next call for nominations this winter.

The EdCom Award for Excellence in Resources

In 2014 the RISD Museum received the Excellence in Resources Award for [Manual: a journal about art and its making](#). Elegant and engaging, *Manual* appeals to artists, designers, critics, and scholars with content developed by writers, artists and scholars. A blend of arts journal and design magazine, *Manual* offers new ways to examine and bring to life works from the RISD collection. *Manual* inspires imagination, serves as a resource for research and stimulates conversations about art, design and the impact of creative making. Visit the [RISD Museum online](#) to explore *Manual* for yourself.



Questions? Contact [Sarah Ganz Blythe](#), director of education, RISD Museum.

Nominate Excellence You Know!

EdCom offers a series of awards to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions to the field of Museum Education. Nominations for the [John Cotton Dana Award for Leadership](#) will be accepted from Friday, Oct. 3 through Friday, Dec. 14. Nominations for the awards for [Excellence in Practice](#), [Excellence in Programming](#), [Excellence in Resources](#) and Innovation in Museum Education will be accepted from Monday, Nov. 3 through Monday, Feb. 23, 2015. Nominate outstanding museum leaders, programs and resources and recognize the work of your colleagues.

[John Cotton Dana Award for Leadership Nomination Form](#)

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 for inclusion in the newsletter, and we'll share your ideas with the museum education community.

Call for Volunteers: Help with January Webinar!

In conjunction with AAM, EdCom is hosting a webinar on Jan. 21. We are looking for volunteers from across the country to invite and host museum colleagues from across their region for follow up discussions. All you need is a projector, reliable internet connection, a space to host colleagues and a desire to network and learn with fellow museum professionals from your area. If you are interested in serving as a host, please contact [Anthony Pennay](#), PD Chair.

One Good Thing

Prioritizing Institutional Inclusion at the Minnesota Historical Society

In 2012, a new strategic priority was announced at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), stating the institution would: work to be continuously engaged with communities of color and American Indian nations, and the diversity of Minnesotans is to be reflected in the Society's collections, programs, staffing and governance.

In a move to meet this goal, MNHS announced in September that it has created a new department: the Department for Inclusion and Community Engagement (DICE). Department staff will begin by focusing on inclusion across the institution in four areas: talent management, programs, community relationships, and training & development. Programs continuing from recent diversity outreach under the department include [American Indian Museum Fellows](#), [ACTC Museum Fellows](#) and the [Summer Immersion in History](#).

For more information, contact [Chris Taylor](#), Head of DICE.

Meet the Board

**Tina Olsen, National Associate
Director, Williams College Museum of Art**

Why are you involved in EdCom?

To provide direction and advice so EdCom can strengthen its impact on the field

What is the future of museum education?

To more thoughtfully and forcefully articulate and demonstrate the museum's value for lifelong learning.

What advice do you have for new museum education professionals?

Get an advanced degree, write and publish.

What are your go-to sources for keeping your thinking fresh, i.e. specific books, blogs, articles, mentors, etc.?

Not in order of priority:

- [Museum 2.0](#) by Nina Simon
- [Jumper](#) by Diana Ragsdale
- Sarah Schultz' 20 years of work at the Walker, and especially her project [Open Field](#)
- Art critic Jerry Saltz, most often read on [Vulture](#)
- [Public History Commons](#)



And the work of wonderful historians, art historians, curators, museum educators, museum directors: Linda Seidel, Peter Stallybrass, Peter Lubar, Jules Prown, Kathy Halbreich, Annie Philbin, Larry Rinder and Jessica Gogan to name a few.

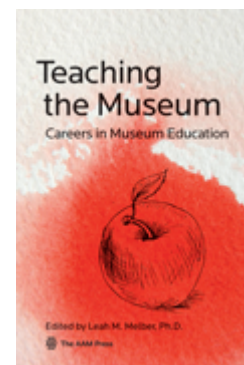
September/October issue of Museum is **now available** online for Alliance members



New from
The AAM Press

**Teaching the
Museum: Careers in
Museum Education**

Edited by Leah M.
Melber, Ph.D.



Calendar

In addition to listings of Alliance programs, our new field-wide [Professional Development Calendar](#) includes listings of professional development opportunities from museum service organizations across the country.

Here are upcoming Alliance offerings:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Oct. 8 | EdCom Book Club Chat: Thinking about Intentionality
Live Google+ Hangout |
| Oct. 17 | Fall Special Registration for 2015 AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo Closes |
| Oct. 17 | AAM Annual Meeting Fellowship Applications Due |
| Dec. 3 | Building Trust through High Performance, Becoming Essential
Part of Magnetic: The Art and Science of Engagement webcast series |
| Dec. 14 | John Cotton Dana Award nominations close |
| Feb. 1 | All EdCom Award Nominations are closed. |
| Feb. 23–24 | Museums Advocacy Day
Washington, DC |
| April 26–29 | Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo
Atlanta |



American Alliance of Museums
2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 1005, Arlington, VA 22202
202-289-1818
www.aam-us.org

Follow us on:



[Unsubscribe](#)