



Dear Readers,

I want to begin with gratitude. It has been a terrible year, but despite the social, financial, and medical challenges we've all had to navigate this year, we at NAME have much to be grateful for.

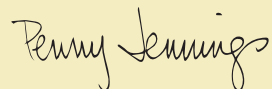
Our Leadership Team and member volunteers have really pulled together to find interesting ways to engage our members virtually in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since last spring, we've convened approximately 100 informal networking Coffee Breaks, 13 Feedback Fridays (virtual brainstorm/critique sessions), five talks with featured speakers, and our first-ever Design Forum – a half-day workshop focused on exhibition design. We added an events page to our website so you can see and register for upcoming events (check it out at name-aam.org), and shared some behind-the-scenes exhibition glimpses through our AAM Annual Meeting networking session, “A Taste of Chicago’s Museums.” Thanks to the amazing volunteers on our Leadership Team, our member volunteers, our sponsors, and our collaborators on AAM’s staff, who support all these various efforts with grace and good humor.

We're also using this time to reflect on and rethink the processes for the annual Excellence in Exhibition Competition. A coordinating group comprised of

the four AAM professional networks that judge exhibition entries – NAME, EdCom, CARE, and CurCom – has reached out to past judges, participants, and the membership at large to surface issues, questions, and pros and cons. We hope to roll out revised entry and judging processes this fall.

If this past year has taught me anything, it's that the future is uncertain – but that with the help of an engaged and dedicated community of colleagues, we can find our way through. Our world has changed. Let's keep as much of the new awareness, as many of the helpful new practices, and all of the mutual support and gratitude we can as we reimagine how our institutions can best serve our communities, now and in the years to come.

Well wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Jennings".

Penny Jennings
President