



Dear friends,

In these divided times, how might exhibitions serve as sites and opportunities for connection? How might they bring together diverse viewpoints and bridge divides? How might an exhibition transform an institution's culture, or help it build new bonds with its community/ies?

These are the questions we posed in the fall 2019 call for papers. The content you'll find in this issue provides our authors' intriguing perspectives on the answers. They share ways to promote learning across time, space, and belief, and the power of shifting to "we." They help us think about the social constructions embedded in our lives. They offer strategies: such as how to demystify cultural projections by centering community voices, or how to tackle a charged subject by taking an overtly non-neutral position.

Our articles will take you across the United States and around the world, from Alaska – where a museum tackles climate change by focusing on similarities in daily life and shared human emotions instead of difference – to a municipality in Colombia, where "community assemblies," held in backyards and soccer fields, brought together 3,500 people to reconstruct a social fabric torn by violence.

I am inspired by these articles and by the words of our critic and book reviewer, who bring to our attention an exhibition on homelessness and a book on the benefits of museum partnerships. And I am inspired by the words of our Q&A feature – the president and CEO of a social service agency – who offers his perspective on how to have a productive dialogue with someone who is different: listen, be present, and "do whatever you can, at the most the most fundamentally respectful level, to be human together."

I hope you will find inspiration in this issue, as I have. Many thanks to our outstanding editorial advisory board, the NAME board, managing editor Liza Rawson, Exhibits Newslines editors Becky Menlove and Jenny-Sayre Ramberg, designer Charita Patamikakorn, our authors, our reviewers, our contributors, and our readers.

Ellen M. Snyder-Grenier
Editor

