



Dear friends,

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Have you ever thought about the amount of work that unfolds in a restaurant kitchen before a meal is carried to a waiting customer? Or the backstage rehearsals and set building that take place before a theater's curtain rises? Or the writing, rewriting, and retakes before a movie director shouts "cut"? So much must happen, unseen, for performative experiences like these to succeed. In this issue, we take a peek at the behind-the-scenes workings of a uniquely creative, performative experience: exhibition making.

Our authors will take you from Mexico to Saudi Arabia, from writing RFPs to overseeing fabrication. Along the way, I'm confident that you will find useful insights, whatever the size of your exhibition project. I also believe you will see many common, illuminating threads. For me, three in particular stood out.

First: the importance of relationship building. Our writers remind us of the benefits of trust and transparency, and encourage us to collaborate deeply. Second is the transformational power of rethinking old ways. Our authors push us to always ask the question: is there a better way? And if the answer is "yes," why not take a risk and try it?

Last but not least, I see a recurring thread of "delight." Delight in the work of making exhibitions: of moving with others towards a common goal; in making lines on paper come to life; in creating experiences that give visitors a place to think, learn, imagine, escape, connect, wonder, understand – and much more.

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

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