



from the president

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**Doug Simpson**  
President

## Dear Colleagues,

**T**his is my last letter as President after having served four years in this position and another six years on the board. I thought I'd use this opportunity to reflect on the changes I've seen within the organization. The dust has largely settled from the strategic reorganization within AAM and its transformation of the ways in which the Professional Networks, like NAME, are integrated within the larger organization.

While there have been plenty of organizational shifts for NAME, the fundamentals remain the same. Our members join primarily for two reasons: professional development to help them do their jobs better and networking with colleagues. We remain committed to serving those needs.

There are no longer membership fees for joining NAME, and we're happy to report our membership has grown. It has become more diverse as museum professionals wearing multiple hats join our ranks. We welcome this opportunity to share information and learn from our colleagues across disciplinary silos. Our fall issue of the *Exhibitionist* on New Media was a successful collaboration with the Media & Technology Professional Network. The theme for this fall's issue will relate to teaching and learning about exhibition design and development, and we look forward to collaborating with our friends from COMPT (Committee on Museum Professional Training).

The *Exhibitionist* is now subscription-based and available to anyone, not just the AAM membership. We're excited to enlarge our community and readership to exhibition professionals primarily affiliated with other associations like ASTC, AZA, and SEG, as well as the international community.

While many of us may think of AAM as primarily about the annual conference, only about one third of members attend each year. So moving forward, NAME will be focusing more attention on serving those members who do not attend. We are working to support and encourage more NAME activities at the regional level. NAME will also be adding more to the growing Resource Library available on AAM's website as well as producing webinar offerings.

NAME is fortunate to have a wonderful community of supporters who make what we do possible, from the hardworking staff at AAM, to our generous sponsors, to all the volunteers who contribute their time to produce this publication and organize events and activities at both the conference and regionally. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know and work with many of these talented folks, and I look forward to continuing to work with NAME in other capacities.

Hope to see you in Seattle at the AAM Annual Conference. This year the NAME Party will be at the spectacular Space Needle!