



## Dear Friends,

This issue was conceived in April 2020, at the start of a global pandemic that has now stretched more than a year. Understanding that museums – and by extension exhibition creators – were struggling to gain their footing in unprecedented circumstances, we put out a call for papers that invited those who create and think about exhibitions to give their colleagues the gift of their creativity, imagination, and experience to help envision a meaningful, thoughtful, and doable way forward in times of crisis.

The call asked for two types of submissions: 1) **steal-this-idea articles** (what proven tried-and-true exhibit technique, design approach, interactive, graphic system, or way of working, we asked, can you share to help those experiencing hard times, whether

due to the coronavirus pandemic or other local or global crises?) and 2) **thought pieces** (how do we most effectively connect with our communities to understand what they need and want most in times of crisis? How can times like these lead us to imagine new ways of thinking about and doing exhibitions?).

*Crisis & Resilience* is the result. As you explore this issue – which starts with the steal-this-idea pieces and moves into thought pieces – I'm sure you'll notice the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There's more of a focus on what's outside or what can be done digitally; offsite programming plays a key role; the pandemic is an instigator for new ways of doing things. You'll also see reflected in these articles the crises that continued to unfold throughout 2020 and beyond,

among them systemic racism, attacks on American democracy, and environmental threats. Above all, you'll see that exhibition practitioners are creative, resourceful, and resilient.

As always, I'd like to thank our outstanding editorial advisory board, managing editor Ian Kerrigan, the NAME board, designer Charita Patamikakorn, Exhibits Newslines editor Jenny-Sayre Ramberg, our authors, our reviewers, our contributors, and you, our readers.

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