

Dear friends,



Exhibitions sit at the unique intersection of learning and understanding, community and coming together, democratic access and accessibility, human stories and personal connections, of awe, reflection, revelation, and action. Museums are considered trustworthy sources by the public. Together, they are perfectly positioned to tackle the defining issue of our time: the global crisis of climate change and environmental threats.

In this issue, our writers take us across the nation and to our neighbor, Canada, as they share their work. We benefit from their expertise, experience, and innovative ideas and approaches. We learn from their challenges, their mistakes, and their lessons learned.

This is a how-to primer. Read the Q&A with an internationally recognized authority on climate change messaging, the compelling articles, exhibition critique, and book review, and you'll come away with insights about psychological barriers to overcome, effective framing, useful approaches for content and design, and much more. And it won't feel dire: above all, as our authors tell us it's about hope – or, as one article puts it,

“urgent hope.” They inspire us to build public understanding and to help our visitors consider the actions they can take.

Can exhibitions save the planet? I don't know – but I know we can try, and that we have a unique set of tools at our disposal. As Julie Packard – the founding executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium – writes in our lead article, “We, as informal learning institutions, need to open our visitors' eyes to the planet's beauty, and to its plight.”

I hope that you find inspiration in this issue, which is the product of many hands. 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 you, our readers.

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