President’s Message

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year we had for the Museum Education Roundtable! It began with MER’s redesigned Journal of Museum Education (JME), which arrived just in time for MER’s annual program at the AAM conference in Minneapolis. At the conclusion of the year, during our August 2012 Board Retreat, MER made a pivotal decision to become “JME-centric.” We acknowledged that the Journal of Museum Education is a vehicle to our core purpose: to strengthen the museum field and individuals within it.

What does being “JME-centric” mean? MER will now focus 100% of its efforts on the JME to ensure it is a long-term, relevant, and viable resource for the field and beyond. One of our first steps was to restructure the Board into four teams: Leadership; Resources & Revenue; Editorial; and Reader Engagement. The other was to provide compensation for our Editors-in-Chief for the first time in MER’s history. Be sure to keep an eye out for the work these teams and our editors are doing in the coming year, especially as they work closely with MER’s new publisher, Maney Publishing, Inc.

Now in my fourth year as Board President, I am honored to work alongside a deeply passionate and dedicated group of colleagues on the MER Board. We strongly believe in the value of the Journal of Museum Education and the ability it has to strengthen the field. Our hope is that you believe the same. Take a look at what we’re doing and see what you think. More importantly take a moment to share with us how you believe the field could be strengthened with the JME as a resource. Perhaps you have a story to tell that illustrates how the Journal has already made an impact? Please share it with us on the MER Facebook page.

Jill A. Orr
Board President

2011–2012

By the Numbers

| 336 | MER members |
| 5% | growth in membership over 2010-11 |
| 205 | participants in MER sponsored regional programs |
| 494 | Facebook followers |
| 10% | of MER’s income comes from donations |
| 5,665 | members of the MER LinkedIn discussion group |
Committee Reports

Board members are volunteers. They serve as officers and on committees and task forces to offer member services, to advocate for the importance of our work as educators, and to maintain and strengthen MER.

Our five MER committee chairs submitted the following summaries of their work during 2011–12:

Executive Committee

**Jill Orr, President**

The Executive Committee oversaw the strategic direction of MER’s five committees. Key highlights include a significant redesign of the JME, regional forums focused on JME topics, and targeted membership campaigns. The group also oversaw a designated JME Task Force to explore options for long term sustainability for the *Journal* and MER. In August 2012, the Executive Committee became MER’s Leadership Team comprised of board officers and team heads.

Membership & Marketing Committee

**Stacy Fuller, Chair**

The Membership and Marketing Committee worked to further streamline communication with MER members through e-blasts, e-mails, social media posts, and MER’s website, along with other tools, including a new membership promotional postcard. Committee members also promoted the JME and MER through targeted membership campaigns. During this fiscal year, the total number of MER memberships increased by almost 5%.

Programs Committee

**Karleen Gardner, Chair**

The Programs Committee focused on connecting museum educators through regional programs based on recent topics from the JME. These events serve as forums for dialogue, networking, and sharing best practices. During the last fiscal year museum educators gathered in Washington DC, Des Moines, Denver, Indianapolis, and at AAM in Minneapolis. Topics ranged from professional development to early childhood education.

Publications Committee

**Dr. Victoria Ramirez, Chair**

The visual and editorial redesign of JME not only updated the publication’s look, but expanded the format to allow for varied voices and types of articles. The JME will continue to feature a focused-theme per issue, while also including new sections. The goal of this new editorial approach is to address a museum educator’s myriad of needs and to ensure the JME continues to be a relevant and reliable professional publication.

Finance Committee

**Robin Savoian, Chair**

The Finance Committee worked to ensure that the organization’s fiscal health was stable and sustainable in the long-term. The group also worked with the Membership and Marketing Committee and Publications Committee to seek increased revenue by boosting our membership base and reviewing our current publishing contract to optimize the money brought in by the JME. For 2011, MER ended with a positive cash flow.

New Board Members

In Spring 2012, four new members were elected to the MER Board for three-year terms starting in November 2012. Welcome!

*Interested in serving? Email Joy Kubarek-Sandor.*

**Brooke DiGiovanni Evans**

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Massachusetts

**Anna Forgerson**

National Museum of African American History and Culture Washington, DC

**DeDee Ludwig**

Museum of Science and Industry Chicago, Illinois

**Susan Spero**

John F. Kennedy University Berkeley, California

Support MER’s Work

Renew / Join / Donate
From the Editors-in-Chief

This was a year of changes for the *Journal of Museum Education*, redesigned both inside and out. We introduced a smaller guest edited single topic section, leaving room for a range of articles on research, case studies, perspectives, reviews and tools in each issue. The new full color cover made the exterior of the JME as lively as the interior. The year closed with a switch to a new publisher and with this change we believe that the JME will be far more accessible than it was previously.

We continue to welcome manuscript submissions, and we are always on the lookout for guest editors. Please see the guidelines on the MER website and contact us at JMuseEd@gmail.com.

Cynthia Robinson & Dr. Tina R. Nolan
Editors-in-chief

Member Voices: How has the JME shaped your work as an educator?

“The JME has been a valuable resource for me as an educator for almost 15 years. I work with a range of audiences—from senior adults to school children. Therefore, I need to have a broad and deep understanding of our field and I frequently turn to the JME for insight into audiences, programming, and theoretical issues that can inform my work.”

— Jennifer DePrizio
Director of Visitor Learning
Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, Boston

“I have the privilege of leading a fantastic team of talented educators. I regularly turn to the JME for articles to share with my colleagues, prompting rich discussions about best and next practices in museum education. We can always count on the JME for insight and inspiration from museum colleagues from around the world.”

— Rachel Bergren
Vice President of Education
Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago

Share Your News in the *Journal of Museum Education*

Did you just conduct an evaluation study that could inform the field? Or open a new education space that you are excited to share with other educators? In upcoming issues of the JME there will be an opportunity to share this information through full-page or half-page paid announcements.

For more information on this opportunity contact Susan Spero.

Journal of Museum Education
Volume 37, Numbers 1–3

Spring 2012
Early Learning: A National Conversation

Summer 2012
Professionalizing Practice: A Critical Look at Recent Practice in Museum Education

Fall 2012
Museum Education in Times of Radical Social Change
2011–2012 Financial Highlights

MER ended the year with a healthy reserve of assets, which will enable the organization to continue to grow, publish a high-quality *Journal of Museum Education*, and provide more regional and national programming. Further, the generous contributions of our supporters have allowed for the continued growth of the David M. Ebitz Memorial Endowment.

Condensed Balance Sheet
October 1, 2011–September 30, 2012

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<th>Actual</th>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<td><em>Journal of Museum Education</em></td>
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<td>Program and Administrative Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>End-of-Year Balance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organization Assets</strong></td>
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MER at AAM

Where can you find MER at the AAM Annual Meeting? Everywhere! At the 2012 Conference in Minneapolis you could find us:

- Promoting the JME in the bookstore;
- Highlighting the Spring issue of the JME at the Marketplace of Ideas, co-hosted with EdCom;
- Enjoying time with friends at the MER Reception at the Minnesota History Center; and
- Co-hosting EdCom’s Reception with the GWU Museum Ed program.

Watch your inbox for news on MER happenings at the 2013 meeting in Baltimore, MD.
2011–2012 Museum Education Roundtable
Board of Directors

Ann Caspari, DC Liaison
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
Washington, DC

Stacy Fuller
Amon Carter Museum of American Art
Fort Worth, Texas

Karleen Gardner
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Matt Hill, Treasurer
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

Jessimi Jones
Columbus Museum of Art
Columbus, Ohio

Michael Kates
Fort Des Moines
Des Moines, Iowa

Carole Krucoff, Secretary
Education Consultant
Chicago, Illinois

Joy Kubarek-Sandor
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Chicago, Illinois

Beth Maloney, Vice President
Education Consultant
Baltimore, Maryland

Sarah Marcotte
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, California

Elisabeth Nevins
Seed Education Consulting
Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Victoria Ramirez
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Houston, Texas

Jill Orr, President
Denver Art Museum
Denver, Colorado

Nancy Richner
Hofstra University Museum
Hempstead, New York

Robin Savoian
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Los Angeles, California

Paige Simpson
Balboa Park Learning Institute & Balboa Park Cultural Partnership
San Diego, California

Laureen Trainer
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver, Colorado

Gabrielle Wyrick
Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston
Boston, Massachusetts

Journal of Museum Education
Editors-in-Chief

Dr. Tina R. Nolan
Tina Nolan Consulting
Chicago, Illinois

Cynthia Robinson
Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts

MER Staff

Outgoing Board Members: Thank you for your service & dedication to MER!

Ann Caspari
DC Liaison, 2005–2012
Board Member, 2005–2012

Stacy Fuller
Vice President, 2010–2011
Board Member, 2008–2012

Robin Savoian
Board Member, 2009–2012

Laureen Trainer
Secretary, 2010–2011
Board Member, 2009–2012

Gabrielle Wyrick