



Museum Education Roundtable

Together – Realizing Connections on the Pathways to Best Practices

Annual Report / OCTOBER 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2011

President's Message

Dear Friends,

For over forty years, the Museum Education Roundtable has been dedicated to promoting the role of museums and other cultural institutions as primary resources for life-long learning. As our national organization remains steadfast in its mission and continues to move forward, we'd like to celebrate with you three important milestones—an ambitious five-year [Strategic Framework](#), a newly designed [Journal of Museum Education](#) (JME), and our first Annual Report. There has never been a more exciting time to connect with the Museum Education Roundtable (MER)!



I encourage you to take a few minutes to learn what we've been up to. As you'll see in the pages of this interactive annual snapshot with links throughout the document, we have not only achieved significant goals, but more importantly we are committed to working hard for you in a manner that is transparent, professional, and strategic. Explore MER's three primary strategies and how they guide committee and task force work for the benefit of our members. Take a peek at our [regional MER programs](#) focused on the JME. Discover what MER is doing to advocate for museums as a new member of the American Association of Museum's [Council of Affiliates](#). These are just a few of many highlights that we hope you will find worthwhile.

On behalf of our volunteer [Board of Directors](#), I want to thank our members, donors, partners, and volunteers for supporting and helping to move the organization in a positive direction. As always, [we welcome your input and involvement](#)—MER wants to connect with you.

Jill A. Orr (Overlie)
Board President

MER's first Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of David Ebitz.

2010–2011 By the Numbers

321

MER [members](#)

10%

of MER's income
comes from [donations](#)

214

participants in MER
sponsored [regional programs](#)

3

MER [strategies](#):
Networking
Professionalism
Advocacy

2,652

members of the MER
[LinkedIn](#) discussion group

443

respondents to the
[Journal of Museum Education](#) reader survey

[Committee Reports](#) /p. 2–3

[Financial Report](#) /p. 4

[Board of Directors](#) /p. 5

Committee Reports

Board members are volunteers. They serve as officers and on committees and task forces to offer member services such as MER's signature publication, the *Journal of Museum Education* (JME), and regional programming based on JME articles and issues; to advocate for the importance of our work as educators; and to maintain and strengthen the organization.

Our eight MER committee chairs submitted the following summaries of their work during 2010–11:

Leadership

Executive Committee

Jill Orr (Overlie), President

On behalf of its members and the museum education community, the Executive Committee (Ex-Com) oversees the direction of the organization in a transparent and strategic manner. Over the 2010–11 financial year, ExCom guided the board along the strategies of [Professionalism](#), [Networking](#), and [Advocacy](#). ExCom streamlined the Board to five committees (Executive, Finance, Membership and Marketing, Programs, and Publications) and three task forces (Advocacy, Annual Report, and Strategic Planning).

Member Services

Membership Committee

Laureen Trainer, Chair

The Membership Committee innovated “member-touch” emails, providing MER's membership with a direct point of contact to board members, important updates, and information related to MER activities, e.g. the *Journal of Museum Education* editors accepting [single submission articles](#) and key findings from our publication survey summary.

Programs Committee

Nancy Richner, Chair

The Programs Committee focused on connecting members of the field through its [regional programs](#), including MER's yearly reception at the AAM Annual Meeting. Programs focus on issues covered in the *Journal of Museum Education*. To assist in the development and implementation of future programs, the committee drafted procedures and a checklist to streamline the process.

Publications Committee

Beth Maloney, Chair

Guided by the results of its publication survey, research of other practitioner-based publications, discussions with stakeholders and colleagues, and MER's [Strategic Framework](#), the Publications Committee worked with the *Journal of Museum Education* (JME) Co-Editors-in-Chief Dr. Tina R. Nolan and Cynthia Robinson to lead an editorial and visual redesign of the JME in order to reach broader audiences and continue to offer high quality scholarship in print and online. MER now offers one [free article](#) per issue electronically to increase access, awareness, and discussion.

Regional Programs

featuring articles and issues from the *Journal of Museum Education*



Museum Education Roundtable & Chicago Hands-On Educators

Museums, Public Education, and Reform

May 4, 2011

Museum of Science and Industry
Chicago, IL

Museum Education Roundtable Reception, AAM Annual Meeting

Beyond Teachers: Relevance and Value in Professional Development Programs in Museums

May 23, 2011

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Houston, TX

Museum Education Roundtable 2011 Forum

Beyond Teachers: Relevance and Value in Professional Development Programs in Museums

August 9, 2011

National Building Museum
Washington, D.C.



*Committee Reports cont.'d***Organizational Support****Communications Committee***Sarah Marcotte, Chair*

The Communications Committee kept membership informed about MER programs, publications, and updates using the website, email newsletters, and social media. The Committee builds community by circulating MER and related museum education news through MER's [LinkedIn](#) group and [Facebook](#) page, and facilitating networking opportunities for members.

Finance Committee*Matt Hill, Chair*

The Finance Committee wrote and implemented both a short- and long-term investment policy for the organization. It also addressed issues and liabilities to strengthen the financial resources on hand by applying professional standards.

Support MER's Work
Renew / Join / Donate

Governance Committee*Stacy Fuller, Chair*

Addressing MER's professionalism strategy, the Governance Committee worked with MER committees to improve and strengthen the organization's board structure, [governing documents](#), and board member nominations process. It also conducted a board health survey to review MER's commitment and service to its members and the larger museum education community.

Strategic Planning Committee*Tania Said, Chair*

Following a planning retreat with consultant John Durel of QM2, the Board established a [Strategic Framework](#) emphasizing its primary strategies of networking, professionalism, and advocacy, as well as major goals. At the August retreat the Board focused the framework's goals by developing measurable objectives and targets for optimizing outcomes benefiting the membership and the field.

Journal of Museum Education
Volume 36, Nos. 1–3**Co-Editors-in-Chief:**

Dr. Tina R. Nolan & Cynthia Robinson

Spring 2011

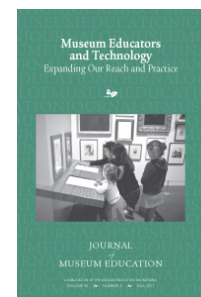
*Beyond Teachers:
Relevance
and Value in
Professional
Development
Programs in
Museums*

**Summer 2011**

*Protecting the
Objects and
Serving the
Public: An
Ongoing Dialogue*

**Fall 2011**

*Museum
Educators and
Technology:
Expanding
Our Reach and
Practice*

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

*Treasurer, 2009–2011
Board Member, 2008–2011*

**Erik Holland**

*President, 2007–2009
Board Member, 2004–2010
Ex-officio, 2010–2011*

**Tania Said**

*Chair, Annual Report Task Force, 2011
Chair, Strategic Planning, 2010–2011
Board Member, 2008–2011*

2010–2011 Financial Highlights

MER ended the year with a healthy reserve of assets, which will enable the organization to continue to grow and provide more regional and national programming. Further, contributions made in memory of David M. Ebitz provided support for a quasi-endowment named in his honor.

Condensed Balance Sheet

October 1, 2010–September 30, 2011

Income	Actual
Contributions	\$2,021
Memberships	10,746
Program Fees	2,057
Total Income	\$14,824
Expenses	Actual
Consultant Expenses	\$1,235
<i>Journal of Museum Education</i>	13,884
Program and Administrative Expenses	2,170
Total Expenses	\$17,289
End-of-Year Balance	– \$2,465*
Organization Assets	\$26,866

*Royalty income of \$5,426 received after year-end; will be reported in fiscal year 2012.



Remembering David M. Ebitz

Our dear MER friend and colleague, Dr. David M. Ebitz, passed

away on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, after a long illness. As a MER Board member from 2004 to 2009, David served as Vice-President, Treasurer, and MER board liaison to AAM's Standing Professional Committee on Edu-

cation (EdCom). He also crafted MER's contract with its publisher, Left Coast Press. Furthermore, he was instrumental in establishing MER's first quasi-endowment. In 2009, the board recognized his steadfast efforts and leadership by naming it the David M. Ebitz Quasi-Endowment for Museum Education. We think he would be pleased to see MER's first annual report.

New Board Members

In Spring 2011, four new members were elected to the MER Board for three-year terms starting in November 2011. *Welcome!*

Interested in serving? Email [Ann Caspari](#).



Karleen Gardner

Memphis Brooks Museum
Memphis, Tennessee



Joy Kubarek-Sandor

John G. Shedd Aquarium
Chicago, Illinois



Elisabeth Nevins

Seed Education Consulting
Boston, Massachusetts



Paige Simpson

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership / Learning Institute
San Diego, California

Moving MER Forward

Donations to the David Ebitz Quasi-Endowment for Museum Education, or other contributions to MER, may be made via check or PayPal.

Interested donors may email [Matt Hill](#), Treasurer, or visit the MER [website](#).

***Thank you
for your support!***

2010–2011 Museum Education Roundtable Board of Directors

Ann Caspari, D.C. Liaison
Smithsonian National Air and
Space Museum
Washington, D.C.

Karen Daly, Treasurer
Dumbarton House
Washington, D.C.

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

Matt Hill
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

Erik Holland
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, North Dakota

Jessimi Jones
Columbus Museum of Art
Columbus, Ohio

Michael Kates
Fort Des Moines
Des Moines, Iowa

Carole Krucoff, Secretary (from 3/11)
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Beth Maloney
Education Consultant
Baltimore, Maryland

Sarah Marcotte
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, California



Annual Board Retreat, National Air and Space Museum, August 2011

Front row (left to right): Jessimi Jones, Lauren Trainer, Sarah Marcotte, Tania Said, Ann Caspari, Paige Simpson, Nancy Richner. *Back row:* Matt Hill, Stacy Fuller, Erik Holland, Joy Kubarek-Sandor, Beth Maloney, Elisabeth Nevins, Jill Orr, Karleen Gardner, Carole Krucoff, Rose Stapp, Michael Kates.

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

Jill Orr (Overlie), President
Longmont Museum & Cultural Center
Longmont, Colorado

Nancy Richner
Hofstra University Museum
Hempstead, New York

Tania Said
David Owsley Museum of Art
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana

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

Lauren Trainer
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver, Colorado

Gabrielle Wyrick, Secretary (until 3/11)
Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston
Boston, Massachusetts

Journal of Museum Education
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Dr. Tina R. Nolan
National College of Education
National-Louis University
Chicago, Illinois

Cynthia Robinson
Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts

MER Staff

Rose Stapp
Office Manager



I love getting to know and work with board members and MER members from outside the discipline of art museums. It helps my work within the field of art museum education to know what issues, challenges, and successes are occurring across disciplines.

— **Stacy Fuller**
Amon Carter Museum of American Art

We Stand for Museum Educators

*What do you
find rewarding about
serving on
the MER Board?*

It is an amazing opportunity to work with museum educators from across the country and across disciplines. But perhaps more importantly, being on the MER Board provides a forum to advocate for museum education and to support and empower other colleagues nationwide.

— **Gabrielle Wyrick**
Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

