



Association of Art Museum Directors

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ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN PONCE, PUERTO RICO

New York, NY, January 24, 2011—At a meeting designed as a forum for art museum directors to focus on the future of the field, 109 directors gathered in Ponce, Puerto Rico this week to view the recently reopened Museo de Arte de Ponce, an AAMD member, and to participate in their annual Midwinter meeting. The meeting featured: a keynote address by Rocco Landesman, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts; a program on leadership development featuring Michael Lomax, President and CEO, United Negro College Fund; and a group discussion about the issues surrounding the recent exhibition *Hide/Seek* at the National Portrait Gallery. Among the specific outcomes of the meeting were:

- A presentation by AAMD president Kaywin Feldman on a range of topics that will have an impact on museum practice and public engagement in the future, including: the globalization of the economy; the implications and opportunities of rapidly changing technologies; a heightened awareness by museums of environmental and sustainability issues; and the role that museums play in education and fostering visual literacy. A task force of AAMD members will be organized to further examine these issues and AAMD's role in addressing them.
- AAMD's Board of Trustees approved revisions to *Professional Practices in Art Museums*, which will be shared with the membership and published shortly.
- An agreement to develop an improved and expanded data collection and analysis tool for members in recognition of the importance of data for internal and external audiences. The second phase of this project will look at ways for sharing this information with the public.
- The adoption of new guidelines on the fair use of digital images of works of art (to be published to the AAMD website shortly).
- Planning for AAMD members' participation in Art Museum Day on May 18th 2011, as part of ICOM's International Museum Day.
- A continued commitment to constructive dialogue with institutions contemplating deaccessioning in ways that are outside the scope of AAMD's professional practice policies.
- A group discussion on the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition *Hide/Seek* and reiteration of AAMD's commitment to freedom of expression and the free exchange of ideas in a democratic society.

AAMD members also shared their recollections of three long-standing members who died in the last year: Peter Marzio, director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Shirley Thompson, former director of the National Gallery of Canada; and James Wood, former director of the Art Institute of Chicago. Glenn

Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art, spoke about Mr. Marzio; Marc Mayer, director of the National Gallery of Canada, talked about his predecessor, Ms. Thompson; and Michael Conforti, director of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, spoke about Mr. Wood. AAMD has also opened its Facebook page for recollections about these three directors, at the link: <http://fb.me/NWprJiVO>.

The Association of Art Museum Directors, representing 198 art museum directors in the US, Canada, and Mexico, promotes the vital role of art museums throughout North America and advances the profession by cultivating leadership and communicating standards of excellence in museum practice. Further information about AAMD's professional practice guidelines and position papers is available at www.aamd.org.

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