



Association of Art Museum Directors

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ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

New York, NY, June 10, 2011—With a focus on continuing to support innovation in the field and diversity within the profession, 134 AAMD members and invited guests met in Raleigh, North Carolina for their annual meeting. The meeting featured talks by several nationally recognized leaders in the field of innovation and technology development, including management professor and author Jeff DeGraff, and Robert Stephens, the Founder of the GeekSquad and CTO of BestBuy. DeGraff and Stephens presented on the proliferation of new technologies and modes of communication and the opportunities for museums to use their extensive collections and intellectual resources to connect and engage with people in new ways and improve their operations.

A panel session on Innovation and Entrepreneurship featured: Judith Cone, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Joe Davy, the CEO of EvoApp; Christopher Gergen, founding Executive Director of Bull City Forward; and Kimberly J. Jenkins, Advisor to the President and Provost for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Duke University. The panel focused on new business models for the 21st century and how museums can use these models to improve their service to the public. The meeting also featured a range of committee meetings and small group discussions on a range of topics, with the following outcomes:

- AAMD reaffirmed its commitment to diversifying senior leadership in the art museum field—a priority defined in AAMD’s Strategic Plan. AAMD will work in partnership with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to implement a pilot mentoring program for minority undergraduates interested in the museum field. UNCF president Michael Lomax presented to and met with AAMD at the Association’s mid-winter meeting in January; those conversations led directly to this initiative. AAMD and UNCF expect to launch the program in the near future.
- The Membership Committee presented a plan to encourage membership in AAMD among art museum directors of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, or Pacific Islander heritage, by offering a dues structure scaled over time to those candidates for whom AAMD’s dues requirements may initially provide an obstacle. Both of the plans noted above were approved by AAMD Board leadership at the meeting.

- A discussion among members on the issues raised by the detainment of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, reinforcing the following core principles:
 - First, AAMD maintains the conviction that freedom of expression should be upheld in all societies;
 - Second, we believe it is vitally important to continue cultural exchanges, dialogue, and collaboration with China.

- A plan to launch a number of new task forces to address specific issues confronting the membership and the field, including relationships with foreign countries and the role of international exchange, as well as continued professional development initiatives.

A number of new members were elected to AAMD, representing institutions across North America, including some museums that had previously been AAMD members but have not recently been represented. New members are: Mark Bessire (Portland Museum of Art); Betsy Bradley (Mississippi Art Museum); Ray Cronin (Art Gallery of Nova Scotia); Kirstin Evenden (Glenbow Museum); Kathleen Jameson (Mint Museum of Art); Terry Pitts (Cedar Rapids Museum of Art); Lourdes I. Ramos Rivas (Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico); and Joseph Rosa (University of Michigan Museum of Art).

This meeting was the last under the term of AAMD president Kaywin Feldman (Minneapolis Institute of Arts). At the conclusion of the meeting, the membership voted to affirm the proposed slate of new Officers and members of the Board of Trustees, including the selection of Dan Monroe (Peabody Essex Museum) as the next President. The other new Officers and Trustees are: Kimerly Rorschach (Nasher Museum of Art) as First Vice President; Danielle Rice (Delaware Art Museum), Education Committee; Rob Kret (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum), Government Affairs Committee; Michael Conforti (Clark Art Institute), Nominating Committee; Rebecca Nagy (Harn Museum of Art), Program Committee; and Tom Campbell (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Miguel Fernandez Felix (Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico City) and Timothy Rub (Philadelphia Museum of Art) as Trustees for 3 year terms.

The Raleigh, North Carolina location was selected in order to provide members with an opportunity to visit the newly opened expansion at the North Carolina Museum of Art, as well as the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University and the Ackland Art Museum. Museum colleagues from non-member institutions across the state were invited to participate in the meeting as well.

The Association of Art Museum Directors, representing 210 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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