



Association of Art Museum Directors

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AAMD President's Message
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Farewell to Janet

You will all have received a letter from Janet Landay announcing that she is stepping down as executive director. Janet was hired during an important period of transition at AAMD. Under her guidance, the organization has made great strides in expanding its mission of service to its members to now include proactive leadership for the field. During the past two years, she oversaw the development of a new strategic plan and detailed implementation plan. With that process now complete, Janet is leaving to pursue new challenges and her successor will lead us in carrying out the plan. Chris Anagnos has graciously agreed to serve as our Interim Director and we will be proceeding with a search. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Janet for her many contributions over the last two years and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

I think it is important to celebrate AAMD's victories--so I want to make sure to note the recent decision by the Iowa House to shelve discussion of a bill that would have forced the University of Iowa Museum of Art to sell its Jackson Pollock painting, Mural. Over the last several weeks, AAMD worked aggressively with AAM and other like-minded associations to make clear that the deaccessioning of the painting to create a scholarship fund would be both a violation of standard and essential museum practice and a major loss for the people of Iowa as well as the University community. I want to thank AAMD's staff, as well as colleagues Jeff Fleming and Sylvia Wolf, for their support on this issue and for spreading the word about the importance of art and art museums to a wide range of constituencies. If you missed it, the [Globe Gazette](#) ran the story about the halt to the legislative process, which acknowledges the many voices that have weighed in on this issue.

Following our meeting in Ponce, a number of people have asked about my presentation of some key statistics that are relevant to the future of the Association and the field. I am working on a formal version of my spoken remarks to accompany my data points, and will share those with you soon. For those who were not there, my planning for this presentation started in October 2010 when John Maeda, President of the Rhode Island School of Design, joined us during our board meeting to brainstorm and help challenge AAMD to become a more future-thinking organization. It resonated with me that John urged us to balance "I - We - the Environment" discussions.

I would argue that AAMD has spent a lot of its time in the "I-We" realm, which leaves us a bit high and dry when the external world around us changes. AAMD's new strategic plan challenges us to better balance these realms, and spend some of our time considering and anticipating the dynamic world outside our doors—locally, nationally, and internationally. We are already off to a great start.

Kaywin Feldman
President
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