



# Museum Education Roundtable

Together – Realizing Connections on the Pathways to Best Practices

## Annual Report / OCTOBER 2011 – SEPTEMBER 2012

### 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

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## 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

## 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](mailto:Joy.Kubarek-Sandor@mer.edu).



### Brooke DiGiovanni Evans

Museum of Fine Arts  
Boston,  
Massachusetts



### Anna Forgeron

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

our current publishing contract to optimize the money brought in by the JME. For 2011, MER ended with a positive cash flow.

*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](mailto: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**

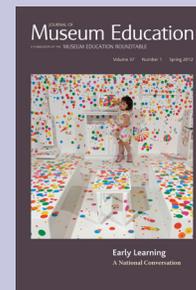
*Vice President of Education  
Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago*

## 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

Income	Actual
Contributions	\$2,321
Memberships	14,006
Program Fees	1,677
Royalties	5,426
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,430</b>
Expenses	Actual
Consultant Expenses	\$3,572
<i>Journal of Museum Education</i>	9,375
Program and Administrative Expenses	5,495
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,442</b>
<b>End-of-Year Balance</b>	<b>\$4,988</b>
<b>Organization Assets</b>	<b>\$31,874</b>

### 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.



### Regional Programs



#### Iowa Museum Association Conference

*Beyond the Basics: New Possibilities for Museums and Schools*

October 17, 2011  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
Des Moines, IA

#### MER Denver Forum

*Shaping Your Technological Mindset*

February 21, 2012  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
Denver, CO

#### MER Reception, AAM Annual Meeting

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

April 30, 2012  
Minnesota History Center  
St. Paul, MN

#### Association of Midwest Museums

*Building Learning for the Youngest Visitors*

July 25, 2012  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Indianapolis, IN

#### MER 2012 DC Forum

*Early Learning: A National Conversation*

August 7, 2012  
Smithsonian Castle Library  
Washington, DC

## 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



### Annual Board Retreat, National Air and Space Museum, August 2012

*Front row (left to right):* Victoria Ramirez, Nancy Richner, Stacy Fuller, Cynthia Robinson, DeDee Ludwig, Paige Simpson, Ann Caspari, Brooke DiGiovanni Evans, Jessimi Jones. *Back row:* Susan Spero, Rose Stapp, Carole Krucoff, Matt Hill, Beth Maloney, Joy Kubarek-Sandor, Elisabeth Nevins, Anna Forgeron, Jill Orr, Karleen Gardner.

**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

**Lauren 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*

**Rose Stapp**  
Office Manager

## 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*



**Lauren Trainer**  
*Board Member, 2009–2012*



**Gabrielle Wyrick**  
*Secretary, 2010–2011*  
*Board Member, 2009–2012*