



Association of Art Museum Directors

120 East 56th Street
Suite 520
New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212.754.8084
Fax: 212.754.8087

May 19, 2010

Next month I will conclude my term as President of AAMD. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your help over the past two years. I've been fortunate to have had your support during a period of significant change at the Association. We wouldn't have been successful without your hard work and that of our equally talented and hard-working staff and Board of Trustees. It's been a rewarding experience for me and I thank all of you for making it so.

Over these two years we've addressed the effects of a financial crisis, new challenges to our policy on deaccessioning, and questions about our role as stewards of art and archaeological artifacts in an environment of increasing cultural exchange. AAMD has advocated on behalf of our member institutions as we have expanded our role in serving our communities and exhibiting works of living artists in our galleries. We've done this, and done it well, with the invaluable help of Janet Landay, our energetic new Executive Director who joined the staff in March 2009. Together with Matthew Teitelbaum, she has guided us through the process of strategic planning, the most challenging and energizing work we've undertaken in recent years. Thanks to your input and regular feedback, the Plan will position us to serve the public in our increasingly diverse and global environment, embrace rapid technological innovation, and develop new expectations of oversight and collaboration as we prepare our field and our institutions for the future. The Plan will guide us as we increase public appreciation and support of art and art museums, foster leadership in the field, and better serve and support our members. We will discuss the goals of the Plan at the June conference in Indianapolis.

I take this opportunity—on International Museum Day—to announce that at the June meeting the Nominating and Governance Committee will ask for your confirmation of Kaywin Feldman, Director of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, as AAMD's new President. I can think of no one more qualified to lead the organization as we implement our Strategic Plan. Kaywin has played an integral role in the planning process over the past 15 months, and her museum experience and management skills will be a significant asset to AAMD in the period ahead.

Thanks again for the extraordinary support and kindness you have shown me over the past two years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,
Michael Conforti