



## Association of Art Museum Directors

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AAMD President's Statement - March 2010

This week AAMD will release our [2010 State of North America's Art Museums \(SNAAM\) Survey](#), and the results are very encouraging. While the economic downturn has affected the revenues and endowments of nearly all our members, more than 80% of member museums have committed to either maintain or increase their levels of programming compared with last year. Museum collecting has largely remained steady as well, with 61% of respondents reporting that this year's acquisitions budgets were equal to or greater than last year's.

Art museums serve as havens in times of economic uncertainty, and the public continues to respond positively to museum programs. In the 2009 survey, museums reported large increases in attendance as visitors renewed their appreciation of the value of their local cultural institutions. This trend has continued: two-thirds of institutions responding indicated that their public attendance had at least held steady over the last twelve months, with nearly half (45%) reporting an increase.

The survey demonstrates the resilience and importance of art museums in communities throughout North America. Museums are reaching out to more people with high-quality programming, and they continue to be relevant and respected public resources. As President of AAMD, an organization of 193 art museums in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, I am proud to offer these survey results as proof of the extraordinary value of our institutions.

Michael Conforti  
President