CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR THE SPRING 2023 ISSUE OF EXHIBITION
a journal of exhibition theory & practice for museum professionals published
by the National Association for Museum Exhibition (NAME),
a Professional Network of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM)

BIG IDEAS ON SMALL (OR SMALLER) BUDGETS
PROPOSALS DUE JUNE 6, 2022

In a 2009 documentary, Grammy-award-winning musician and songwriter Jack White
shared his views on the benefit of limitations. “Telling yourself ‘Oh, you’ve got all the
time in the world, all the money in the world, you’ve got all the colors in the palette you
want, anything you want,’” he says, “just kills creativity.”

More often than not, museums do not have “all the colors in the palette.” Staff
members (together or solo) need to create exhibitions and/or exhibit elements on
limited budgets—or on budgets that, for one reason or another, have been substantially
cut during development. For this issue, we seek proposals for articles that share ideas
for doing more with less.

Proposals for this issue might come from small museums (which in the United States are
in the majority) that have forged creative, tested solutions. Or, they might come from
museums of any type or size that have developed creative solutions on limited budgets
or have had to regroup when generous budgets have been reduced. And they might
focus on any of a number of aspects: developing partnerships to build capabilities;
strategies for developing content; designing and fabricating on a budget; developing
accessible elements; attainable media solutions; reusing and recycling; evaluation on a
shoestring; how to shift gears when a budget is trimmed; or something else.

Proposals can focus on a specific exhibition or provide an overview of exhibitions and
practices. The exhibitions and/or elements discussed can be created by or for museums
of all disciplines, historical sites, galleries, institutions that collect and display living
collections, or others. Proposals might come from designers, exhibit developers,
interpretive planners, curators, writers, educators, or others who create and contribute
to exhibitions. In all cases, accepted authors will be expected to write articles that
illuminate larger issues; are descriptive and critical and analytical; and evaluation, even
if informal, must evidence arguments for the strengths and weaknesses of a project.

HOW TO WRITE AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

There are two parts to a proposal (which must be submitted as a Word document):

1. A title page that includes the name of the proposal (e.g., "Big Ideas on Small Budgets")] and a brief abstract (150 words maximum) that outlines the main ideas and arguments of the proposal.

2. The main body of the proposal, which should provide a detailed description of the project, including its scope, goals, methods, and expected outcomes.
Part 1: A description (250 words max)
The description must:
- include a proposed title for the article;
- clearly and succinctly convey what the article’s thesis will be;
- indicate the approaches, strategies, or knowledge that readers will take away from the article; and
- convey how the article would raise questions or illuminate larger issues that are widely applicable (especially if the proposal focuses on a single project).

Please note that accepted articles will be expected to provide critical, candid discussions about issues and challenges, successes and failures, and to provide some level of evaluation, even if informal.

Part 2: A brief bio
Please provide a brief bio (no more than one paragraph) for each author that describes each author’s background and their qualifications for writing the article (please do not include resumes or cvs).

PLEASE SEND ALL PROPOSALS AS WORD DOCUMENTS VIA EMAIL
to incoming editor Jeanne Normand Goswami at jeanne.goswami@gmail.com.
Submissions from colleagues and students around the world are welcomed and encouraged.

DEADLINES

Proposals are due JUNE 6, 2022. Our editorial advisory board will vet proposals in a blind review process, and you will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance in late June/early July 2022. Articles of 2,000 words maximum, along with high-resolution images, will be due in late August 2022.

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