

Dear Friends,



With immense hope and anticipation, we head into spring with promises of warmer weather, vaccines, and new beginnings. Overlapping the start of a new season, the NBMAA is also approaching the conclusion of 2020/20+ Women @ NBMAA, an initiative presented during a tumultuous year and featuring remarkable women artists who also overcame their own unique struggles. As we prepare the final 2020 exhibition, our focus has narrowed on exploring the ways in which we can strengthen our ties to our local community with greater authenticity and intentionality.

Monthly themes have been created by our talented Education team with support from the NBMAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEAI) committee comprising staff representation from all departments throughout the Museum. In the coming months, we will be presenting content focused on art, health and wellness; partnering with local organizations like New Britain ROOTS to deliver Earth Day awareness; and planning a Juneteenth celebration with our Community Advisory Group. In addition, we will recognize and award the valuable work of our teachers with a full week of free admission during Educator's Week.

Our continuing efforts to deepen NBMAA ties with our community is perhaps best exemplified through our newest *NEW/NOW* exhibition, *Jennifer Wen Ma: An Inward Sea*. Opening May 6, the exhibition brings together art and community, by featuring recordings of local residents and workers as they recount their experiences of the last year, including the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown, and racial justice uprisings. Featuring stories of isolation, togetherness, and personal experiences of the pandemic and beyond, the recordings will culminate in a database of a personal and collective history for the city of New Britain and the New Britain Museum of American Art, and our journey toward collective healing.

While the arrival of *Jennifer Wen Ma: An Inward Sea* marks the end of our 2020/20+ Women @ NBMAA initiative, we remain committed to carrying this momentum forward into the future, by celebrating the contributions of women to the arts through the exhibitions, installations, and acquisitions we undertake.

It is following this sentiment that we look forward to continuing our role as a place of respite, inspiration, and connection to the community, and to welcoming you all through our doors in the year to come.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Min Jung Kim'.

Min Jung Kim
Director & CEO