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Dear friends

We hope you had a great start to 2019 with friends and loved ones. We are looking forward to an important and exciting year ahead.

A message of urgency and hope from the UN Secretary-General

At the close of 2018 we were inspired to see UN Secretary-General António Guterres' year-end message to staff, which captures the spirit of urgency and optimism that we at the museum, with our partners and supporters, feel so acutely in our work and our vision for the future. In this, Guterres acknowledged:

"Our work faces strong headwinds. Climate change continues to run faster than our efforts to limit it. Conflicts are growing more complex. Intolerance is on the rise, and trust is on the decline."

At the same time, he saw "*winds of hope*" and a strong need for the UN and multilateralism:

"The adoption of global compacts on migration and refugees points the way towards saving lives and overcoming toxic myths about people on the move. The successful outcome of the climate conference in Poland gives us a path forward as we push for greater ambition and prepare for the Climate Summit."

We echo these sentiments. Our work at the Museum for the United Nations — UN Live will support this agenda and help spread the winds of hope in 2019 and beyond.

Getting ready for launch

Our content team has concluded an intensive design process together with our creative partners, focusing precisely on the themes the Secretary-General has emphasised: Climate Change and People on the Move. The result of the collaboration was a three-pronged 2.5-year launch programme, which amongst other things, utilises the huge capacity of online media to engage people around the world in their local communities. Details about each part of the programme - a YouTube competition, local festivals and a global game - will be presented as we begin to roll them out starting in the second quarter.

New funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

We are thrilled to announce that we have received a USD \$2 million matching grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support our launch programme. Many of you may recall that The Mellon Foundation, based in New York, funded the development of our content strategy in 2016 and is a preeminent funder for culture, higher education, and the humanities, with a growing emphasis on global social impact, particularly in the domain of refugees, migrants, and displaced persons.

This generous grant is earmarked for the establishment of a world-class curatorial and research team to support public engagement and form the nucleus of our permanent staff. We will start recruiting for these positions soon, so keep an eye on our website and LinkedIn for details. And note too that this is an excellent time to make a financial contribution towards our public launch as the Mellon Foundation will match new contributions 1:1, essentially doubling your gift. Please ask us for details.

In the works...

We were fortunate to get extraordinary candidates for the CEO position and expect to update you on this important appointment in our next newsletter.

Recent, unexpected changes in the funding situation for the museum building have prompted us to consider how we can rescope our building concept. We are working steadily on to find the best solution, while keeping our ambitions high.

We have also worked on a new visual identity to better reflect our DNA and ambition to engage people all around the globe. It will be a global symbol that will work across languages and thematic contexts,

echoing our intention to increase cross-cultural collaboration and our commitment to inclusiveness. We expect to finalise it soon after discussions with our friends at the UN. Stay tuned!

Big thanks

The transition from one year to the next sparks reflection on the year that has passed and the possibilities of the year to come. 2018 was a time of great growth and learning for us. As we emerge from a long incubation period to spread our wings in 2019 as a fully-fledged public-facing organisation, we would like to take a moment to thank all our dedicated partners, donors, colleagues and friends. Your support means the world to us - and will soon mean a lot to the world.

On behalf of the team, I wish you a happy and successful New Year!

Jan Mattsson
Executive Director



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