The pandemic shows us our deep interconnectedness, and my concern is that the community remembers and builds on that interconnectedness. In this way, the protests, still ongoing, are a sign of hope and possibility for a better world—and the hard work that it will take all of us to get there.

"I thought things would have begun to moderate by this time, but I was wrong. All my hope problems are rooted by the virus stretching into the future—we are not in a sprint, but a marathon." 

Emotionally, things felt even lower than in the spring. I am still reading and cooking more, and keeping up with all the little things that I used to let pile up…

"It feels like many folks in my community have become careless. I am scared. A spike in cases will surely follow." 

Most of our museum-goers, however, continue to be in that "cautious middle," and limiting their activities as much as reasonable. A small handful have even visited reopened (mostly outdoor) museums, though most were saying "not yet." And many are dismayed by what they perceive as the carelessness of others.

But as we learned this spring, when it comes to this pandemic, there is a spectrum of opinions. There are also those who are frustrated by the slow pace of opening:

"Resigned" "whipsawed" "exhausted" "no hope"

"But I haven’t read any indoor museums yet, and have no plans to in the near future. I think that it might be several years before I feel comfortable doing a mainly indoor experience—even with masks and hand sanitizer."

And our museum-goers continue to be resilient, developing and keeping up with good habits, and finding joy in small things:

"I’ve been to Lynden Sculpture Garden a couple of times—they opened up for socially distant walking. So you can walk outside amongst the sculptures… it was nice to get out and about… since it was all outside, I felt totally safe and comfortable… I have and will return."

"With what I have learned about the virus, I favor keeping the vulnerable self-isolating and getting everything else back to normal. Now my good humor is fraying, and I am becoming more hostile about any remaining restrictions."

Most have strong concerns about how quickly things have opened up.

"Going outside for nature walks and hiking… This brings me peace."

"I am still reading and cooking more, and keeping up with all of the little things that I used to let pile up…"

Overall, our museum-goers are coping. Yet their concerns for society and the challenges faced during this time of pandemic and social unrest are strong. These concerns, however, are also viewed as opportunities.