

**Executive Director  
New Mexico Museum of Space History  
A Division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs  
Alamogordo, New Mexico**

**LEAD A LEGACY OF EXPLORATION IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT**

The New Mexico Museum of Space History, a vibrant part of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (NMDCA), seeks a dynamic and visionary leader to serve as the Executive Director. This is an exceptional opportunity to guide a renowned institution and shape the future of space exploration education in New Mexico.

**About the Museum: A Hub of Space History**

Located in Alamogordo, near Robert Goddard's historic launch site, the New Mexico Museum of Space History is a cornerstone of the state's cultural landscape. Originally established as the International Space Hall of Fame in 1976, the museum celebrates New Mexico's pivotal role in the evolution of space exploration, from early human observations of the heavens to the modern U.S. Space Program. The campus features 28,000 square feet of exhibition space, educational facilities including the New Horizons Dome Theater and Planetarium, and research and support centers. Serving more than 77,000 visitors and students annually, the museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of space exploration. As part of the NMDCA system, the museum collaborates with the Governor-appointed New Mexico Museum of Space History Commission and the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation to advance its mission and expand its vision.

**The Opportunity: Lead with Vision**

This is a singular opportunity to lead a nationally recognized cultural institution. As a Governor-Exempt appointee of the NMDCA Cabinet Secretary, the Executive Director will be the driving force behind the museum's strategic vision, building upon a rich legacy and leveraging a unique campus to achieve its full potential. This role offers the chance to not only envision the museum's next chapter from conception to implementation, but also to significantly advance the public's understanding and appreciation of the profound history of space exploration, particularly as it relates to New Mexico's contributions.

**Responsibilities: Inspire, and Shape the Future**

The Executive Director provides strategic leadership for and overall management of the museum and its facilities:

- Steward, articulate, and advance the museum's mission, ensuring its ongoing relevance and impact.
- Provide strategic leadership and direction to a multidisciplinary team, cultivating a culture of collaboration, innovation, and high-performance.
- Formulate and execute a vision for the museum's exhibitions and educational programs, ensure alignment with strategic goals, and enhance the museum's regional, national, and international reputation.
- Direct the strategic preservation and conservation of the museum's collections, ensuring their long-term integrity, accessibility, and relevance to scholarly research and public engagement.
- Establish and maintain robust financial management, drive sustainable revenue growth, optimize resource allocation, and ensure fiscal accountability.
- Serve as the primary liaison with the NM Museum of Space History Commission, the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation, and key stakeholders, building strategic partnerships to advance the museum's mission.
- Working with the Foundation, spearhead strategic fundraising initiatives, diversify revenue streams, and secure major philanthropic support to ensure the museum's long-term financial stability and growth.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive statewide engagement plan to elevate the museum's profile, expand its audience reach, and enhance its impact as a leading cultural institution.

### **Qualifications and Qualities: Leading the Mission**

- Advanced Knowledge and Training. Master's degree or higher in a relevant field (museum studies, history, science, business administration) is strongly preferred, coupled with demonstrated expertise in applying advanced knowledge of space history and science to strategic leadership within a cultural institution.
- Executive Leadership Experience. A minimum of five years of progressive leadership experience in a senior museum management role, with a verifiable record of success in driving organizational growth, innovation, and sustainability.
- Financial and Fundraising Acumen. Demonstrated success developing and executing comprehensive fundraising strategies, securing major philanthropic support, and managing complex budgets to ensure long-term financial stability. Extensive experience working with non-profit fundraising organizations is highly desirable.

- Visionary Program Development. Proven ability to conceptualize and implement transformative exhibitions and educational programs that elevate institutional profile and engage diverse audiences on a national and international scale.
- Effective Leadership and Communication. Recognized ability to build and lead high-performing teams, building coalitions, and achieving excellence, with demonstrated experience engaging governing boards/commissions.
- Commitment to Respectful and Equitable Practices. Demonstrated commitment to fostering respectful and equitable practices across all museum operations, ensuring a welcoming and accessible environment for staff and visitors.

### **Alamogordo: A Homebase for Southern New Mexico**

Alamogordo offers a unique blend of history, natural beauty, and a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. Nestled in the Tularosa Basin at the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains, Alamogordo provides stunning scenery and immediate access to a variety of outdoor activities. Residents enjoy a relaxed pace of life and a lower cost of living than many metropolitan areas, fostering a strong sense of community. The area is rich in history, from its pivotal role in early rocketry to its proximity to White Sands National Park, a world-renowned natural wonder.

Alamogordo is centrally located within a dynamic region. Just a short drive away, you'll find:

- Las Cruces: A bustling city offering a vibrant arts scene, diverse culinary experiences, and New Mexico State University.
- Cloudcroft: A charming mountain village known for its cool pine forests, scenic hiking trails, and year-round recreational opportunities.
- Ruidoso: A popular resort town offering skiing, horse racing, golf, and a thriving arts and entertainment scene.
- El Paso, Texas: A major metropolitan area providing access to a wide range of amenities, including an international airport, diverse cultural attractions, state-of-the-art medical care, and a thriving business environment.

The surrounding region offers endless opportunities for exploration and adventure. Outdoor enthusiasts will find hiking, biking, camping, and rock climbing in the nearby mountains, while the vast expanse of White Sands National Park provides a surreal landscape for hiking, sledding, and stargazing. Easy access to the Lincoln National Forest and other natural areas ensures that outdoor adventure is always close at hand.

With its sunny skies, friendly people, and access to unique cultural and natural experiences, Alamogordo, and the surrounding region, provides a wonderful place to live, work, and explore southwestern New Mexico.

### **Compensation**

The salary for this position is \$120,000, plus a comprehensive benefits package and PERA retirement.

### **To Apply: Ready to Make History?**

Please submit a letter of interest articulating your specific interest in the New Mexico Museum of Space History and how you envision contributing to our continued success and growth, along with your curriculum vitae, to [executive.search@dca.nm.gov](mailto:executive.search@dca.nm.gov). References should be provided upon request.

### **Timeline**

- May 16, 2025: Deadline for initial submission of qualifications. While qualifications are received until the position is filled, candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by the initial deadline.
- October 2025: Anticipated start dated

### **For more information:**

- [New Mexico Museum of Space History](#)
- [New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs](#)
- [International Space Hall of Fame Foundation](#)

### **Questions:**

Contact Lori Arevalo at 505-827-6354 or [lori.arevalo@dca.nm.gov](mailto:lori.arevalo@dca.nm.gov).

### **Additional Information:**

Please note that candidates' materials submitted in this process may be subject to disclosure under New Mexico's Inspection of Public Records Act.

The Department of Cultural Affairs is committed to an equitable and inclusive work environment for all candidates and employees and provides equal opportunities in all employment practices without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or childbirth, age, disability, or veteran status.