



Date

Deb Haaland Tapped to Deliver Keynote at AAMG 2025 Annual Conference Hosted by UNM

Albuquerque, NM — The Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG) is proud to announce that former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland will serve as the keynote speaker for its 2025 Annual Conference, hosted by the University of New Mexico Art Museum (UNMAM) June 24–27, 2025 in Albuquerque, N.M.

A historic public servant, cultural advocate, small businesswoman, 35th-generation New Mexican and member of the Pueblo of Laguna, Haaland made history as the first Native American to serve as a U.S. Cabinet secretary. Her keynote address will engage this year’s conference theme, “Belonging: Storytelling Across Campus and Community,” highlighting the vital role of the arts in society and the importance of academic museums and galleries play in shaping inclusive narratives and fostering community connection, creating space for all communities, and nurturing creativity.

Haaland is a UNM alumnae, holding a bachelor’s degree in English and a J.D. from the UNM School of Law. She is running for Governor of New Mexico in the 2026 election.

“AAMG is honored to welcome Deb Haaland to our 2025 conference,” said Liz Crooks, co-chair of this year’s annual conference and director of the University of Iowa Pentacrest Museums. “Her leadership and vision exemplify the kind of transformative understanding and action that museum professionals across the country strive for. We are especially excited to gather in New Mexico, where history, culture and community are deeply interwoven.”

The 2025 conference marks the first time AAMG’s flagship event will be held in New Mexico as well as the first time that the UNMAM will host the prestigious annual conference. AAMG leads national efforts to ensure best practices for academic museums, galleries, and collections through its educational and advocacy initiatives.

The AAMG Annual Conference is the largest professional gathering for academic museum and gallery staff, educators, curators, and students in the United States. For more details, visit <https://www.aamg-us.org/aamg-2025>.

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