

Aga Khan Museum Announces Retirement of Director and CEO Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis

Toronto, ON – February 2, 2026 – The Aga Khan Museum today announced that Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis will retire from her role as Director and Chief Executive Officer, concluding nine years of service to the Museum, including five years as CEO.

During her tenure, Dr. Al-Khamis played a pivotal role in shaping the Museum's curatorial and programmatic vision, strengthening its international profile, and advancing its mission to foster intercultural understanding through art, culture, and creative dialogue. Under her leadership, the Museum expanded its global partnerships, including a significant collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Culture, and a renewed MoU with the Louvre. Dr. Al-Khamis personally curated and oversaw the curation of innovative, audience-focused and globally recognized exhibitions, including *The Moon: A Voyage Through Time* in 2019, and the Museum's most recent show *As the Sun Appears from Beyond: Twenty Years of the Al Burda Award*, presented in partnership with the UAE's Ministry of Culture.

Dr. Al-Khamis oversaw the shaping of the Museum's upcoming major exhibition, *Game On!*, which reflects the Museum's mission by showcasing the power of games and sport to connect people across cultures and generations. While plans to open *Game On!* will continue as scheduled, we are deeply grateful for Dr. Al-Khamis's vision and guidance in bringing the exhibition to life.

During her tenure, Dr. Al-Khamis was furthermore instrumental in expanding the Museum's intercultural Education and Living Arts programs onsite and into the global, digital space, significantly deepening its reputation as a leading learning institution for intercultural dialogue and pluralism through the arts of Muslim civilizations.

As a leader in the cultural and museological field, Dr. Al-Khamis has been a consistent and vocal advocate for using the arts and the Museum as a force for positive change, community cohesion and intercultural diplomacy – within Canada and around the world – driving the mandate and vision of the Museum's founder.

"It has been an extraordinary privilege to lead the Aga Khan Museum," said Dr. Al-Khamis. "Over the past nine years, I have had the opportunity to work alongside an exceptional team and a global network of partners to realize an ambitious vision for the Museum and grow its impact at home and abroad. I am deeply proud of what we have built together and confident in the institution's continued future growth, impact and success."

Luis Montréal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and Aga Khan Museum Board Director, acknowledged Dr. Al-Khamis's contributions to the institution and the wider AKTC mandate. "Ulrike has led the Aga Khan Museum with intellectual rigor, strategic clarity, and an unwavering commitment to excellence," said Montréal. "Her leadership has strengthened the Museum's international standing and expanded its role as a platform for cross-cultural exchange. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we thank Ulrike for her dedication and the lasting legacy she leaves and wish her the best for her next chapter."

With Dr. Al-Khamis's departure, the Museum's Senior Leadership team will continue to drive the Museum's strategic and public programming plans.

About the Aga Khan Museum

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). Through permanent and temporary exhibitions, educational activities and performing arts, the Museum's mission is to spark wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures through the arts. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8 hectare site with Toronto's Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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