Thinking a-Head: New NM Museum of Natural History & Science exhibit highlights evolution of extraordinary animal headgear

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science is thrilled to announce a new traveling exhibition that explores how prehistoric and modern animals developed spectacular head features like horns, frills, and crests. Bizarre Headgear opens at the museum **December 12**. Albuquerque, NM – The New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science is thrilled to announce a new traveling exhibition that explores how prehistoric and modern animals developed spectacular head features like horns, frills, and crests. Bizarre Headgear opens at the museum December 12.

"We're thrilled to showcase another standout exhibition from the creative team behind our visitor favorite Animal Armor," said New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science (NMMNHS) Executive Director Dr. Anthony Fiorillo. "Like the previous exhibition, Bizarre Headgear tells a compelling story about animal evolution with additional specimens from our museum's collections, providing our visitors a unique experience that won't be found elsewhere."

Produced by Gaston Design Inc., Bizarre Headgear showcases evolution at its most extreme, from 12-foot antlers to oversized skulls. From horned dinosaurs (ceratopsians) to modern bison, animals have developed a variety of fancy facial features to communicate, reproduce, and deter threats.

By featuring examples from hammerhead sharks to human innovations, the exhibit highlights the interconnectedness of living organisms. Bizarre Headgear seeks to engage and inspire visitors of all ages.

Additionally, the traveling exhibition will be supplemented by specimens from NMMNHS' collections from the Southwest. Four New Mexican ceratopsian partial skulls will be on display, as well as a prehistoric peccary called Platygonus that is about twice the size of a modern javelina. Eight local bat species will also be featured alongside 500,000-year-old bat fossils from Slaughter Canyon Cave in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. These recontextualized and never-before-seen specimens ensure that museum visitors get a unique experience.

Bizarre Headgear opens on Saturday, Dec. 12, on the museum's first floor. The exhibition is included with museum admission. To learn more about Bizarre Headgear, visit nmnaturalhistory.dca.nm.gov/exhibitions.

About the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, under the leadership of the Board of Trustees of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. Programs and exhibits are generously supported by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History Foundation, through the generous support of donors. Established in 1986, the mission of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science is to preserve and interpret the distinctive natural and scientific heritage of our state through extraordinary collections, research, exhibits, and programs designed to ignite a passion for lifelong learning. The NMMNHS offers exhibitions, programs, and workshops in Geoscience, including Paleontology and Mineralogy, Bioscience, and Space Science. It is the Southwest's largest repository for fossils and includes a Planetarium and a large format 3D DynaTheater.



A cast of Cervacles, a large deer genus that lived during the Pleistocene epoch, featured in the Bizarre Headgear exhibit | Photo courtesy of Gaston Design Inc.

