

Manal Ataya
Director-General
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Government of Sharjah, UAE

Manal Ataya is the Director General of the Sharjah Museums Department, which manages 16 museums in the emirate of Sharjah. The Sharjah Museums Department (SMD) was established in 2006 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, and is responsible for the strategic development of future museum projects, fostering partnerships with the international museum community and leading the efforts to deliver best practice in museum services in the Arab region. The current museum offering covers Islamic culture and history, art, heritage, maritime history, archaeology, science, natural history, and children's learning.

Manal Ataya holds a BA in Studio Art and Communication Studies from Hamilton College and a MA in Museum Studies from Harvard University, USA.