FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

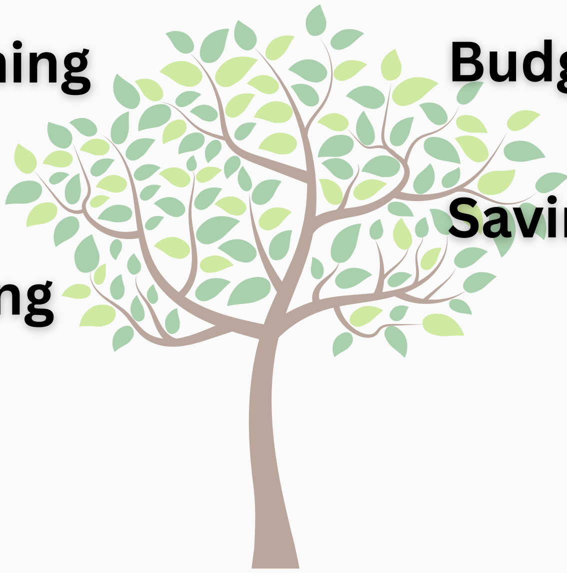
Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

December 11, 2025
4 pm - 7 pm

WELCOME

Welcome to the New Mexico State Treasurer's Financial Empowerment Summit in partnership with the City of Albuquerque. This summit was designed to bring several experts together to share valuable insight and practical skills when navigating through the world of personal finance with confidence.

Over the course of this event, we will delve into essential topics designed to empower your financial journey.



We encourage active participation. This is a space to ask questions and engage with our knowledgeable presenters. To support your learning journey, this program contains contact information for the speakers and valuable resources related to each topic covered.

Our hope is that you leave this summit equipped and empowered to take control of your financial future.

Welcome, and let's learn together!

Laura M. Montoya

New Mexico State Treasurer

NOTES

AGENDA

4:00 pm — WELCOME

Carla Martinez, Associate Chief Administrative Officer, City of Albuquerque
Laura M. Montoya, New Mexico State Treasurer

4:05 pm — TURN A BAD SITUATION INTO OPPORTUNITY

Why Financial Fitness Matters

Laura M. Montoya, New Mexico State Treasurer

Treasurer Montoya will offer an overview of New Mexico's financial landscape and underscore the opportunity to empower New Mexicans through financial fitness. Discover actionable steps to close the wealth divide, cultivate generational wealth, and invest directly in our communities.

Treasurer Montoya will cover why financial fitness and planning matters. Treasurer Montoya will also define key financial terms and illustrate how understanding these basics can help you make the most informed decisions on your financial fitness journey.

4:35 pm — The A to Z of Personal Finance

A Complete Guide to Financial Literacy

David Diller, CFP®, CPA, Financial Advisor

David Diller will teach you how to unlock the secrets to financial success! This high-impact session provides a complete overview of personal finance, covering everything you need to manage your money with confidence. We'll demystify your paycheck and budgeting, explore smart banking, borrowing, and saving strategies, and give you the essential knowledge on credit, investing, and taxes. Learn to spot predatory lending/scams and understand risk and insurance to protect your future. Take control of your money—starting now!

4:55 pm

Your ABQ Financial Upgrade

The Power of OFE & Bank On Burque

Rada Moss, Manager of the Office of Financial Empowerment with the City of Albuquerque & Vanessa Arballo, Program Manager for Bank On Burque within the Office of Financial Empowerment with the City of Albuquerque

Ready to take control of your financial life? Join Rada Moss and Vanessa Arballo to learn about the City of Albuquerque Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE)!

OFE is your dedicated partner in economic resilience, offering education, advocacy, and essential services to help break down barriers and build sustainable futures.

They will also share the game-changing details on Bank On Burque: an initiative connecting you to low-cost checking accounts with absolutely NO overdraft or surprise fees at local banks and credit unions. Learn how the OFE is making financial independence a reality for all Albuquerque residents!

5:02 pm

THE INVESTOR'S GPS

10 Rules of the Road for Investing Success

Joel Esquibel, Financial Advisor

Ready to navigate the investment landscape with confidence? Join Joel for a fast-paced session revealing the 10 most important "Rules of the Road" for investing!

Whether you're a beginner or looking to sharpen your strategy, Joel will break down the basic principles that help you work toward your financial goals. Learn how to avoid common and costly investing mistakes and use these ten rules as essential guidelines for building lasting investing success. This session is perfect for anyone eager to demystify the market and create a stable long-term plan. You'll leave with a clear, actionable checklist to apply to your portfolio. Don't start your journey without your map!

5:22 pm THE EDUCATION TRUST BOARD: INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION

Beyond Student Loans: Unlock the Power of The Education Plan for a brighter tomorrow

Natalie Cordova, CPA, Executive Director, The Education Trust Board of New Mexico - The Education Plan & Scholar's Edge

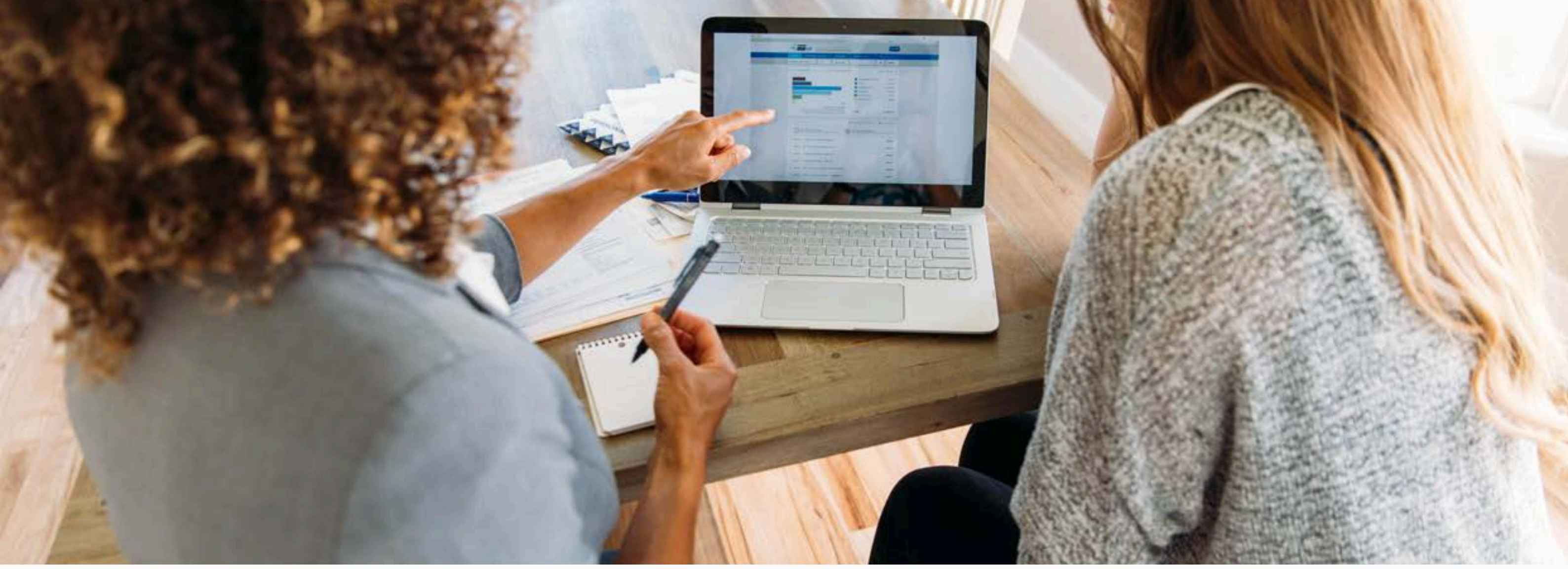
Natalie Cordova will explain how 529 plans can reduce student loan debt and empower families to save for the future. Natalie will delve into the specifics of these tax-advantaged education savings plans, designed to make future education more affordable. You will learn about The Education Plan®, New Mexico's direct-sold 529 education savings plan. It offers compelling benefits like tax advantages, flexible giving options, a variety of investment choices, and the ability to easily open an account. Plus, discover the wide range of qualified expenses you can use your funds to pay for, giving you peace of mind as you plan for your loved ones' educational journeys.

5:37 pm SAY NO TO "USE IT OR LOSE IT": THE NM STABLE PROGRAM

Financial Freedom for Individuals with Disabilities

Denise Balderas, NM STABLE Program Coordinator

Denise Balderas will provide information about the New Mexico State Treasurer's Achieving a Better Life Experience (NM STABLE) Program and how these accounts allow eligible individuals living with disabilities to save and invest without jeopardizing their vital public benefits like Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). Denise will share how House Bill 98 (HB98) will align with federal legislation, increase the qualifying age of disability onset from 26 years old to 46 years old beginning on January 1, 2026 and how it prevents the state from seeking estate recovery payments from a NM STABLE account.



5:47 pm

BOOST YOUR BENEFIT

Maximize Retirement with PERA SmartSave

Paul Lium, Plan Investment Advisor Representative, PERA SmartSave

Ready to take control of your retirement savings? Join Paul Lium for an essential overview of the PERA SmartSave Deferred Compensation Plan!

SmartSave is the voluntary, supplemental defined contribution plan designed to work with your mandatory PERA benefit. Paul will explain how New Mexico public employees can contribute a portion of their salary, choose their own investments, and grow their future income. Learn how to leverage pre-tax or after-tax contributions under the trusted guidance of NM PERA as a fiduciary—it's your personalized path to a stronger retirement!

5:55 pm

ESTATE PLANNING: PREPPING FOR THE FINAL CHAPTER

It is not if, it is when

Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul, Estate Planning Attorney, The Law Office of Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul

Join us for an insightful presentation that demystifies the world of estate planning, empowering you to secure your financial future and ensure your wishes are honored. Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul will cover crucial topics that help you make informed decisions for yourself and your loved ones. Topics will include: the Purpose of Estate Planning; What an Estate Plan Should Include; Understanding Trusts; Estate Taxes; Right to Die; and Putting Children on Accounts and Deeds. This session will provide you with the knowledge and tools to confidently plan for the future, ensuring your legacy is preserved and your loved ones are protected.

7:00 pm

RESOURCES/Q&A/CONCLUSION

ESTEEMED PANELISTS

Laura M. Montoya
New Mexico
State Treasurer
Contact:
Laura.Montoya@sto.nm.gov

Raised and educated in Las Vegas, New Mexico, Treasurer Laura M. Montoya broke barriers as the first female State Treasurer in New Mexico and the first elected Latina State Treasurer in the U.S. Treasurer Montoya has dedicated her career to serving New Mexicans at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels with dedication, commitment and skill. She works tirelessly to bridge the gap of inequity through various initiatives, including outreach for financial literacy, the New Mexico State Treasurer's Achieving a Better Life Experience (NM STABLE) program, Baby Bonds, and thoughtful discussions on implementing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategies in New Mexico and nationally. Treasurer Montoya's dedication ensures that financial policies and practices pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive future for all New Mexicans.

David Diller
CFP®, CPA,
Financial Advisor
Contact:
David.Diller@rbc.com

David Diller is from Albuquerque (Eldorado HS) and earned his Masters in Accounting in 2012 from UNM. David worked at Sandia National labs in Accounting, Finance, Business Operations, and Project Management from 2010-2021. While working at Sandia, David completed his CPA license in 2013. David began teaching financial literacy and accounting at CNM (part-time) in 2019, which lead to a career change to financial planning. David currently works at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Wealth Management as a financial planner. David works with individuals and local businesses and help them with financial planning, investment management, and designing retirement plans. David enjoys being active in the local community through his involvement with Junior Achievement, Future Fund of Albuquerque Community Foundation, United Way Community Investment Council, CNM Ingenuity Financing Coaching, 501©PA, and the Sunward Supervisory Committee. David and his wife have two daughters (6 and 9) and they love to travel and spend time with their family and friends in Albuquerque.

ESTEEMED PANELISTS

Rada Moss
Manager,
Office of Financial
Empowerment, CABQ
Contact:
radamoss@cabq.gov

Rada Moss serves as the Manager of the Office of the Financial Empowerment Office for the City of Albuquerque. Rada's career spans over 30 years in the areas of nonprofit management and administration, specifically in the areas of philanthropy and resource investment, program and project management, data management and research, housing development and homelessness prevention, ex-offender re-entry, workforce development and stability, and multi-system engagement. She is also an accomplished grant writer and is a committed community servant. As such, she currently serves on the Board of Directors of Lovelace Women's Hospital and as a Commission Member with the City of Rio Rancho. Rada is a proud alumna of Spelman College, and is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Vanessa Arballo
Program Manager,
Bank On Burque,
Office of Financial
Empowerment, CABQ
Contact:
varballo@cabq.gov

Vanessa Arballo serves as the Bank On Burque Program Manager for the City of Albuquerque, where she leads community-focused initiatives to improve access to safe banking options, financial education, and consumer protections—particularly for underserved residents and older adults. With over 13 years of experience in the banking industry, she has held a range of positions, including Teller and Vice President, most recently serving as a Wealth Private Client Officer. Vanessa is passionate about engaging directly with community members, meeting them where they are, and helping them access the tools and support they need for long-term financial stability. She earned both her Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Accounting from the University of New Mexico. Outside of her professional role, Vanessa enjoys spending time with her husband, Jose, and their three daughters. She remains deeply committed to impact positive change here in Albuquerque.

ESTEEMED PANELISTS

Joel Esquibel
Financial Advisor
Contact:
Joel.Esquibel@edwardjones.com

Joel was born and raised in New Mexico and is a dedicated financial advisor committed to providing clients with personalized, strategic financial solutions. With a strong focus on integrity and ethical practices, Joel takes a client-first approach, helping to ensure each individual's needs are met with thoughtful guidance and transparent communication. Joel's commitment to service extends beyond financial advice, reflecting a passion for individual growth and community well-being. Joel is a proud member of Sandia Pueblo, and is an active board member and volunteer for two local nonprofit organizations: United Fit and Senior Citizen's Law Office. Joel has a passion for educating and bringing folks together – he believes that together, we can reach new heights. Joel likes to go to the gym and enjoys sports – both watching and playing.

Natalie Cordova
Executive Director, The Education Trust Board of New Mexico – The Education Plan® & Scholar's Edge®
Contact:
natalie.cordova@etb.nm.gov

As Executive Director of The Education Trust Board, Natalie oversees the State's 529 Education Savings Program. Prior to joining the New Mexico Education Trust Board, Natalie served as Deputy State Auditor at the Office of the State Auditor, other Chief Financial Officer positions and worked in public accounting. She is a Certified Public Accountant, actively licensed in the State of New Mexico. She received her Bachelor of Science Degrees in Accounting and Economics from New Mexico State University. She resides in beautiful Northern New Mexico with her husband and three children.

ESTEEMED PANELISTS

Denise Balderas,
NM STABLE
Program Coordinator,
New Mexico State
Treasurer's Office
Contact:
dbalderas@sinergiallc.app

Denise Balderas served as an Exemplar school administrator both within Rio Rancho Public Schools and Albuquerque Public Schools, as a highly qualified educator, professional trainer, and children's advocate for 24 years. She has also utilized her skills to promote the ABLE NM Act within the New Mexico State Treasurer's Office for the disability/exceptionality communities. She was responsible for building a strong bridge of communication, sharing of information and services for exceptional individuals statewide through newsletters, and numerous trainings. Denise has helped quadruple the number of NM STABLE accounts, making New Mexico one of the fastest growing ABLE account states within the Ohio STABLE Consortium.

Paul Lium
Plan Investment
Advisor
Representative,
PERA SmartSave
Contact:
paul.lium@voya.com

Paul Lium has been an investment professional in the Governmental Defined Contribution space for over 25 years. He holds FINRA licenses in Series 6, 26, 63 and 65; and is a registered Investment Advisor Representative in the state of New Mexico. He's held various positions in governmental defined contribution administration, including upper-level management. Most of Paul's current work entails face-to-face individual meetings with 457b Plan participants, group enrollment and investment education seminars, personalized account reviews, consolidation of retirement accounts, and financial wellness education. Paul is from Albuquerque, New Mexico but also spends personal time in Santa Fe. He's an avid downhill skier and has competed in many ski competitions throughout his life. Paul's historical knowledge in the State of New Mexico's 457b Plan is an invaluable resource for NM PERA's fiduciary oversight responsibilities. PERA continues to appreciate Paul's dedication to the Plan and the government employees of New Mexico.

ESTEEMED PANELISTS

Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul
Estate Planning Attorney,
The Law Office of Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul
Contact:
cristy@carbon-gaul.com

Cristy J. Carbón-Gaul grew up primarily in Omaha, Nebraska but considers herself a New Mexican, living in Albuquerque most of her adult life. Her and her husband, Daniel Gaul, moved to New Mexico in 1997. They have two children, two dogs, three cats, and 23 chickens. Her undergraduate degree, a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting is from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Since 1997, Cristy has been a lawyer licensed by the New Mexico State Bar, earning her law degree from Creighton University School of Law, graduating cum laude. Cristy has practiced probate law in New Mexico for over 20 years. Cristy is also completing her elected term as the Probate Judge for Bernalillo County.

FINANCIAL FITNESS RESOURCES

Bank On Burque
Website - cabq.gov/bank-on-burque
Contact - (505) 768-4648

Bank On New Mexico
Website - bankonnewmexico.org
Contact - bankonnewmexico@prosperityworks.net

City of Albuquerque - Office of Financial Empowerment
Website - cabq.gov/office-of-equity-inclusion/about-office-of-equity-inclusion/office-of-financial-empowerment-1/
Contact - (505) 768-3491

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Website - consumerfinance.gov
Contact - (855) 411-2372

FDIC Money Smart - A Financial Education Program
Website - fdic.gov/consumer-resource-center/money-smart
Contact - (877) 275-3342 - Option 2

Jump $tart New Mexico
Website - jumpstartnewmexico.wildapricot.org
Contact - newmexicojumpstart@gmail.com

New Mexico Education Trust Board
Website: etb.nm.gov
Contact - 505-476-3860

New Mexico State Treasurer's Achieving a Better Life Experience (NMSTABLE)
Website - nmstable.com
Contact - (505) 629-2919

Office of the Superintendent of Insurance
Website - osi.state.nm.us
Contact - (855) 427-5674

PERA SmartSave Deferred Compensation Plan
Website - nmpera.org/deferred-compensation/
Contact - (833) 424-7283

Property Insurance
Website - nmpropertyinsurance.com
Contact - (505) 878-9563

The Education Plan
Website - Theeducationplan.com
Contact - (505) 476-3860 or (877) 337-5268

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)
Website - nefe.org
Contact - 303-741-6333

QUESTIONS TO ASK

When Looking for a Financial Planner/Advisor:

- Are you a fiduciary? (This means they are legally obligated to act in your best financial interest.)
- How are you compensated for your services? (e.g., fee-only, commission, fee-based)
- What licenses and certifications do you hold (e.g., CFP®, CFA, CPA)?
- What is your experience working with clients in a similar financial situation to mine?
- What is your investment philosophy or approach?
- How often will we meet or communicate, and what can I expect from our ongoing relationship?
- Can you provide references from current clients?
- What services do you offer beyond investment management (e.g., retirement planning, tax planning, estate planning)?
- How do you typically communicate with clients (e.g., in-person, phone, email, video call)?
- What is your client-to-advisor ratio?

QUESTIONS TO ASK

<u>When Asking About Banking Services (Banks & Credit Unions):</u>

- What are the fees associated with this checking/savings account (e.g., monthly service fees, ATM fees, overdraft fees)? How can I waive them?
- What is the interest rate on this savings account/CD, and how is it compounded?
- Are my deposits insured by the FDIC (for banks) or NCUA (for credit unions)? What are the limits?
- What digital banking services do you offer (e.g., mobile deposit, online bill pay, Zelle/transfer services)?
- What are your ATM network policies and fees?
- What are the requirements to open this type of account?
- Do you offer any special programs or benefits for new customers or specific groups (e.g., students, seniors)?
- What is your customer service availability (hours, phone, chat)?
- What security measures do you have in place to protect my account information?
- Can you explain your process for resolving account disputes or errors?
- Do you offer any financial education or counseling services?

QUESTIONS TO ASK

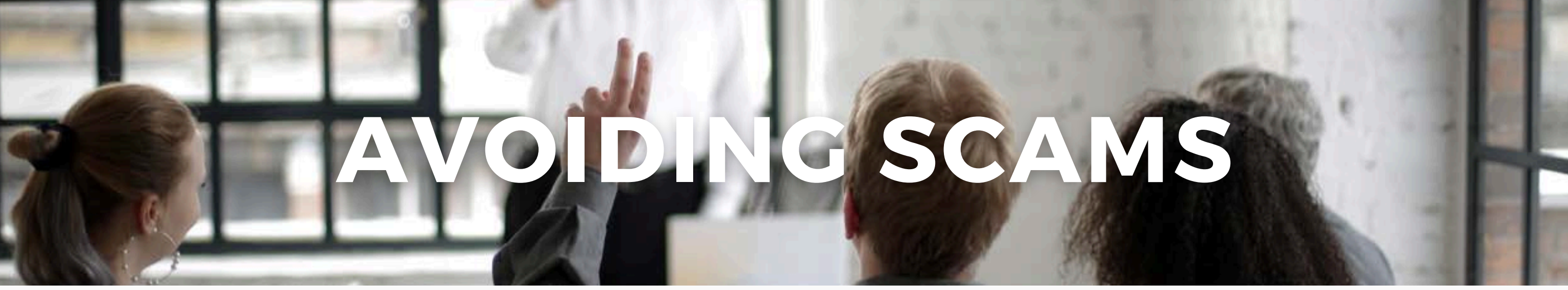
When Looking for Insurance (Auto, Home, Health, Life, etc.):

- What exactly is covered by this policy, and what are the specific limits for each type of coverage?
- What are the deductibles for each type of claim? How do they work?
- What specific situations or damages are not covered by this policy (exclusions)?
- Are there any discounts available that I might qualify for?
- How do I file a claim, and what is the typical claims process and timeline?
- What is the premium, and what payment options are available?
- What is your company's financial rating or stability?
- Can you explain the difference between Actual Cash Value (ACV) and Replacement Cost Value (RCV) for property (Applicable for home/auto)?
- What is the policy's cancellation process and associated fees?
- What customer support or emergency services do you offer?

QUESTIONS TO ASK

When Considering Investments (for Beginners):

- What are the minimum amounts required to start investing in various options (e.g., mutual funds, ETFs)?
- What are the typical fees associated with these investments (e.g., expense ratios, trading fees, advisory fees)?
- How do I determine my risk tolerance, and how will that influence my investment choices?
- What is the recommended timeframe for these investments to achieve my financial goals?
- How frequently will I receive statements or updates on my investment performance?
- What tools or resources do you provide for me to learn more about investing?
- What are the tax implications of these investments (e.g., capital gains, dividends)?
- How can I access my money if I need it before my goal date? (liquidity)
- What support is available if I have questions about my investments?
- Can you explain the difference between a Roth IRA and a Traditional IRA, and which might be better for me (If applicable)?



AVOIDING SCAMS

Four Signs That It’s a Scam

1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.
Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the FTC, Social Security Administration, IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2. Scammers say there’s a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.
They might say you’re in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there’s a virus on your computer. Some scammers say there’s a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.
Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you’re on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can’t check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver’s or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

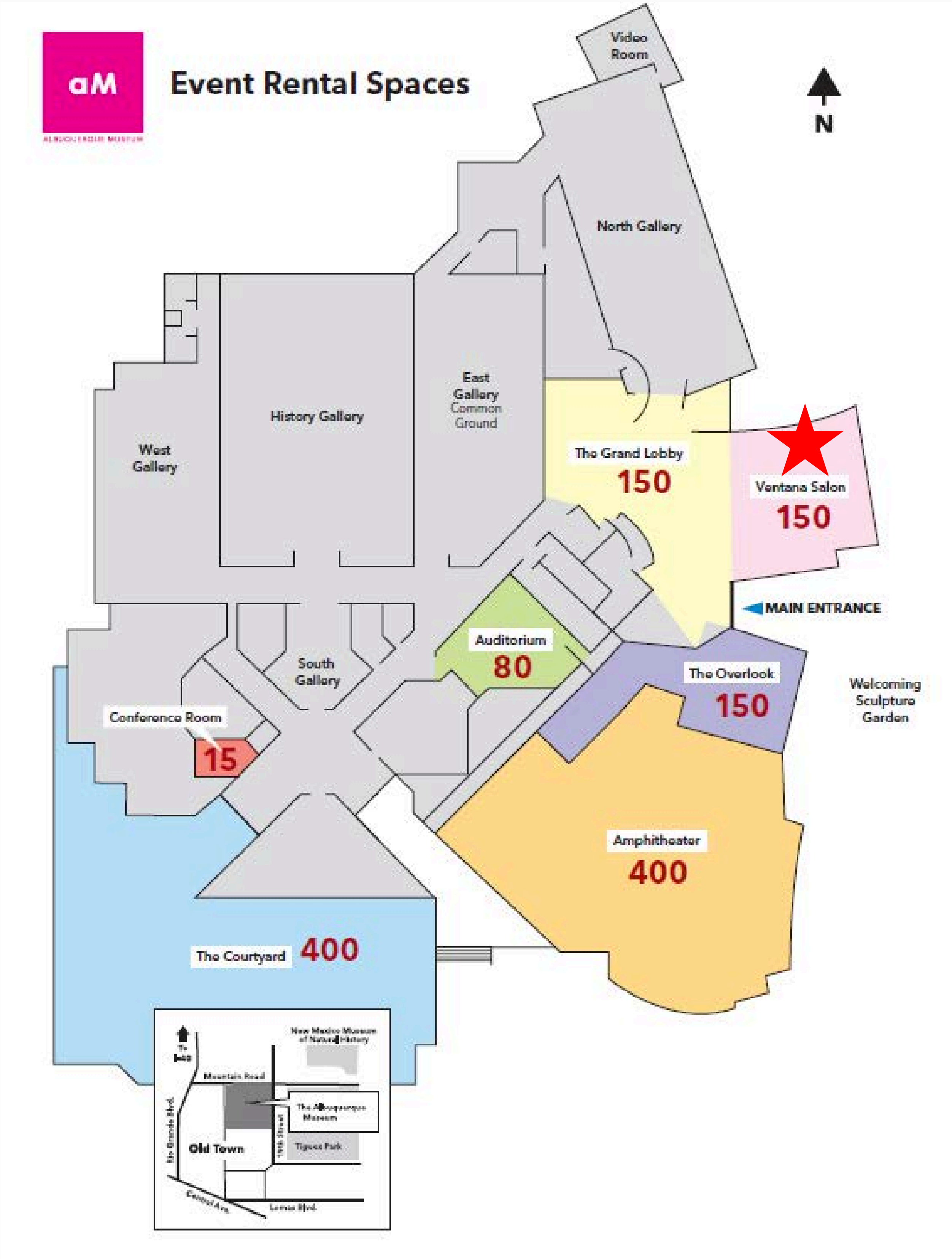
4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.
They often insist that you can only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

AVOIDING SCAMS

How To Avoid a Scam

- **Block unwanted calls and text messages.** Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.
- **Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.** Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.
- **Resist the pressure to act immediately.** Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.
- **Know how scammers tell you to pay.** Never pay someone who insists that you can only pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram, a payment app, or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.
- **Stop and talk to someone you trust.** Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM MAP



The Financial Empowerment Summit will take place in the Ventana Salon (150) at the Albuquerque Museum, which is located at 2000 Mountain Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104. FREE parking can be found on the south side of the museum.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

The City of Albuquerque's Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) is a critical component that serves as a valuable resource to our community, providing residents with the tools, resources, and education they need to make informed financial decisions and achieve long-term economic success. Mayor Keller established the Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) in 2024, underneath the Office of Equity & Inclusion as a means of ensuring that the City of Albuquerque is a safe, innovative, and inclusive community. OFE serves as a valuable resource to our community, providing residents with the tools, resources, and education needed to make informed financial decisions and achieve long-term economic success. The OFE bridges the gap between knowledge-based partnerships and education along with the necessary access for financial stability and families' opportunity to thrive. OFE strives to identify and implement programs and strategies that connect Albuquerque individuals and families with access and resources to improve their economic well-being, wealth building opportunities, and financial viability.

Bank On Burque is a City of Albuquerque economic inclusion initiative for connecting individuals and families to bank and credit union checking accounts that are low-cost and have no overdraft or surprise fees.

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged education savings plan designed to make future education more affordable for families. The Education Plan® is a 529 education savings plan sponsored by New Mexico.

A voluntary 457(b) retirement plan that is offered through the New Mexico Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and contributions are taken from your paycheck on a before-tax or after-tax (Roth) basis as a PERA member.* * Roth availability may vary by employer A defined contribution plan intended to supplement your mandatory defined benefit retirement. Your benefit is based on total contributions plus investment earnings. You choose your contribution amount and investment options. For optimal investment results, it's best to start sooner, but it's never too late to start saving. The PERA Board acts as a fiduciary of the Plan.

Housing New Mexico, also known as New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA), is a self-supporting quasi-governmental entity that provides financing to make quality affordable housing and other related services available to low- and moderate-income New Mexicans. Using funding from housing bonds, tax credits and other federal and state agencies, Housing New Mexico provides resources to build affordable rental communities, rehabilitate aging homes, supply down payment assistance and affordable mortgages, offer emergency shelter and administer rental assistance and subsidies. Housing New Mexico partners with lenders, REALTORS, nonprofit organizations, local governments, tribal communities and developers throughout the state to make these programs and services available to all eligible New Mexicans.