

Tursazoo Annual Report 2015-16



Five years ago, we began a new chapter in the history of the Tulsa Zoo when we entered a public-private partnership with the City of Tulsa and Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. (TZMI). That same year, TZMI finalized a 20-year Master Plan, created to transform the Tulsa Zoo into a world-class attraction and educational resource our community deserves. Since then, we've reached some major milestones, with the biggest one still to come.

Just one year following privatization, the Helmerich Sea Lion Cove opened to guests and we welcomed back our sea lions to a more modern, state-of-the-art exhibit that set a precedent for all future exhibits. Larger holding areas, natural light and modern amenities were just a few features of the new exhibit, increasing the quality of care for the animals. This immersive exhibit mimics their natural habitat and provides zookeepers with additional opportunities to educate our guests. Although its original residents, Dorsey and Briney, are gone, their legacy lives on with new residents, Cisco and Reyes, who were rescued from the West Coast and could not be released back into the wild.

In 2013, the Tulsa Zoo celebrated its 85th anniversary, growing from a collection of 35 animals upon opening in 1928, to a collection of over 2,600 individual animals representing over 400 species. We also celebrated the start of our 20-year Master Plan, when we broke ground on the first major exhibit, The Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve. The multi-acre exhibit welcomed our two southern white rhinos, Buzbie and Jeannie, grey crowned cranes, white storks, springbok antelope and nayala in 2014, along with 637,000 guests – our second highest attendance in history. We broke ground on our second exhibit of the Master Plan, the Lost Kingdom Exhibit Complex in July 2015. This \$21 million, multi-species habitat will be home to our Malayan tigers, snow leopards and Komodo dragons, along with several new species to the Tulsa Zoo, including red pandas, binturongs and Demoiselle cranes. As with the Helmerich Sea Lion Cove and Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve, the Lost Kingdom Exhibit Complex will be an immersive exhibit giving us new opportunities to inspire passion for wildlife in every guest, every day.

We've reached many milestones in the past five years, with so many more to come. Nothing would be possible without the generous support of our Zoo Friends. With each milestone, our vision of becoming the premier family recreation destination and the leading wildlife education and conservation resource in Oklahoma becomes even clearer.



Terrie Correl

Terrie Correll President and CEO Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc.



# ANIMAL **CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE**

### SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS

On May 3, 2016, our female snow leopard, Sherab, gave birth to three cubs, one female and two males. Rajan, the cubs' father, has been content on exhibit, while mom has been taking care of the cubs. The cubs have steadily gained weight under the watchful eyes of staff and as they get older will be on exhibit. Snow leopards are considered endangered, and are native to the high mountains of central Asia.

On May 13, our Diana monkey Stormy gave birth. Stormy is taking care of her infant in the Conservation Center, to the interest of the entire group. Diana monkeys are from West Africa and are considered a vulnerable species, due to habitat degradation.

### BIRD DEPARTMENT

3 NEW SPECIES: red-and-yellow barbet (pictured below), white-breasted woodswallow and the Madagascar buttonquail.

**TWEET TWEET:** 93 birds of 18 species hatched: 41 Red-billed firefinches hatched; 150 hatched since 2013.

**RECEIVED:** 25 birds of 17 species from collections across the country, five new to the zoo's collection.

### **HERPS/AQUATICS DEPARTMENT**

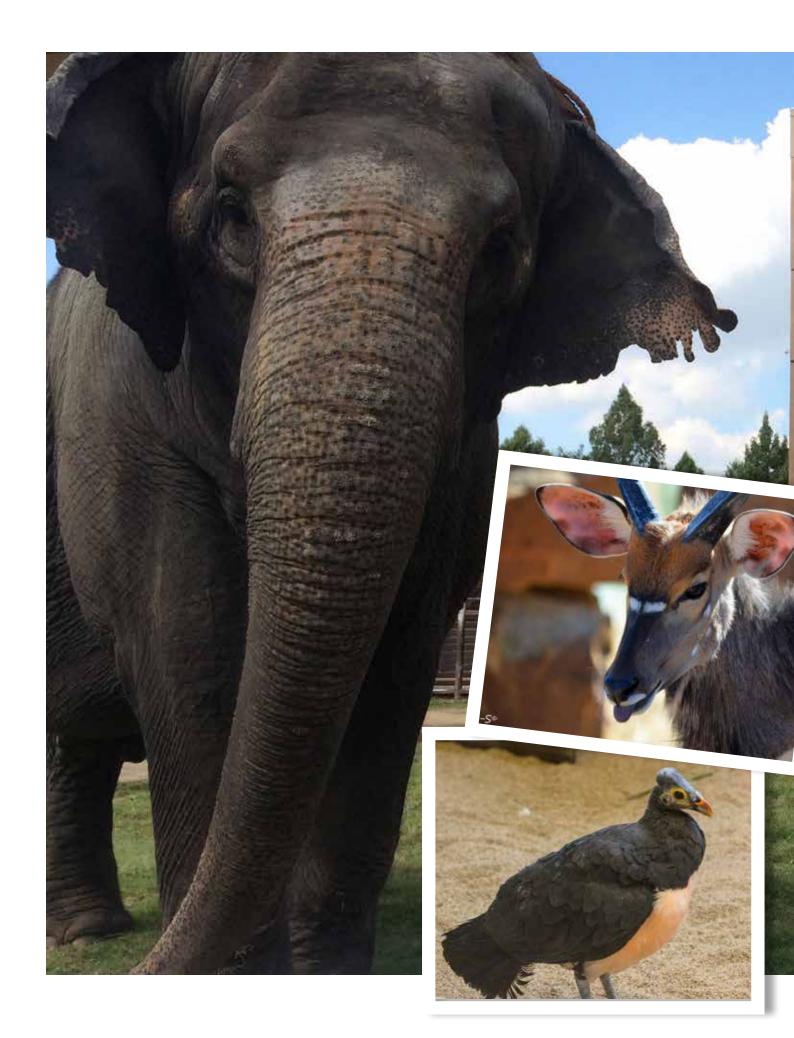
The Tulsa Zoo Herps and Aquatics staff hatched a common chuckwalla, large lizards found primarily in arid regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. This is believed to be the first hatching of this species at the Tulsa Zoo. The adults can be found on exhibit in WildLIFE Trek's Life in the Desert building; the new chuckwalla hatchling can be seen in the reptile nursery area of the Conservation Center.

A baby spotted turtle hatched this year. Tulsa Zoo participates in the Spotted Turtle SSP. Spotted turtles are native to eastern North America and are listed as vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN. ►



CHUCKWALLA BABY





### **ANIMAL CARE**

In September 2015, we welcomed two new elephants into our herd. Females Tova and Asha arrived from the Center for Elephant Conservation in Florida through our partnership with Feld Entertainment. Tova was added to increase our herd size while Asha accompanied her as a travel companion to ensure a smooth transition. Introductions to our existing elephants went well and increased activity for everyone, especially our bull elephant, Sneezy.

In November, staff observed signs of discomfort in 43-year-old Tova. During the following week, Animal Care and Animal Health teams worked around the clock to understand and identify the source of her discomfort. Colleagues from the Center for Elephant Conservation came to consult with our own experts to ensure all avenues for treatment were explored. Despite all efforts, Tova's health rapidly declined. Our veterinarians, along with other experts, agreed it was best to end her suffering through humane euthanasia.

During the necropsy, or animal autopsy, performed on Tova, a nearly 10-pound bladder stone was found to be completely obstructing the flow of urine from her bladder. In elephants, the identification of such stones is very difficult due to the animal's size and anatomy and unfortunately methods of removal are typically not possible for the same reasons, as was the case with Tova. The necropsy results indicated her condition was long-term, had advanced to a stage that caused her great pain and discomfort, and could not be resolved. Therefore, humane euthanasia was the only viable option to end her suffering. Asha will remain at the Zoo for the time being, but will return to Florida in 2017.

The zoo was able to purchase a new elephant scale in the summer of 2015. The original scale that was built into the floor of the barn stopped working, but staff had been utilizing an older, mobile scale. The extremely heavy platform was difficult for staff to move and lacked the capacity to weigh our male elephant, Sneezy. The new scale is much lighter and able to weigh animals up to 15,000 pounds. It can be disassembled to be moved easily and has a wireless display. Because of concerns that Sneezy might pick up and break the scale during the weighing process, zookeeper Andrew Kluesner was tasked with finding a solution. Andrew worked with our Operations department to build brackets that could be set over the corners of the scale without interfering with the weighing process. As a result, Sneezy is weighed averaging 10,500 pounds!

In January 2016, a new antelope species went on exhibit in the Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve. Nyala are native to southern Africa and are a spiral-horned, medium sized antelope. We received the two males, Rowen and Dill, from the Houston Zoo, where they were born.

On February 4, 2016, Tulsa Zoo became only the fourth U.S. zoo to maintain Maleos, large birds found on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. They arrived on Ioan from the Bronx Zoo, which has recently achieved success in propagating this endangered species. There are 22 species in the Megapode family distributed across the many Pacific Islands and Australia. These primitive, gallinaceous birds all bury their eggs in various substrates and when the chicks emerge they are able to fly and forage for themselves. This is first time the Tulsa Zoo has kept a member of this bird family and we are excited to participate in their breeding program as well as this intriguing species to our guests. ►



In March 2016, a new exhibit for naked mole rats opened in WildLIFE Trek's Life in the Desert building, making possible the exhibition of the colony received in 2015 from San Diego Zoo. A small group that arrived from San Antonio in 2012 can also be seen in the new display, although they are kept in separate quarters. Pups were subsequently born to our new colony's queen.

On April 29, 2016, our new male giraffe arrived from the Bronx Zoo. Named Hekaya, he was born at the Bronx Zoo on July 6, 2014. He made the 1,300-mile trip from New York — in about 24 hours. During his first 30 days, Hekaya remained in the giraffe reserve yard so that he could be slowly introduced to our two female giraffes, Lexi and Pili. He quickly adapted to life at Tulsa Zoo and has become a favorite of zoo guests.

The Tulsa Zoo initiated a behavioral research study with our female grizzly bear, Akoiah. The project was developed by carnivore zookeeper Ali Kalenak and is being conducted with the help of other animal care staff within the Carnivore section. Zookeepers conducted daily observations, recorded Akoiah's behavior and collected biological samples during routine cleaning of the exhibit. The samples will be analyzed to see if there is any correlation between her behavior and cortisol levels. This information will help us determine if there are changes to her cortisol level throughout different times of the year. With this information, animal care staff will be better informed when making management decisions with Akoiah's care.

The Herps/Aquatics staff remodeled the Indo-Pacific Reef exhibit in WildLIFE Trek's Life in the Water building. The project involved updating and increasing the size of our water mixing station and the piping leading to and from the Seahorse and Reef exhibits; removing all animals from the reef tank as well as the existing rock-work and substrate; and conducting a top-to-bottom deep clean of the exhibit and life support systems. Staff replaced rockwork and substrate, focusing on opening the layout to improve water flow, which will keep the fish and invertebrates healthy. The changes also improve life support system functionality by removing more debris from the tank. Other changes included installation of new lights at an angle to reduce algae on the front glass of the tank; modifications to the sump to allow for better water filtration; an upgraded protein skimmer; and the addition of a calcium reactor to keep a constant flow of trace elements into the tank to improve animal health. The Herps/Aquatics department came together as a team to accomplish all of this in less than a week and a half to minimize the downtime of the exhibit for guests.

We received a new female Komodo dragon in 2015. Luska was born at the Prague Zoo in 2010 and came to us from the Pittsburgh Zoo. We, in turn, transferred our female Komodo dragon Juanita to the Pittsburgh Zoo for breeding. Once Lost Kingdom is completed, Luska will be paired with our male Moloch in their new exhibit for breeding as part of the Komodo dragon Species Survival Plan (SSP). Until then you can see both of our Komodo dragons in separate exhibits in the Conservation Center.

### **VETERINARY HEALTH**

In July of 2015, the Veterinary staff transported two of our African penguins to Oklahoma City for CT scans at the OU Health Sciences Center. One 35-year old penguin, Brock, had









been showing clinical signs of illness and chronic weight loss. A healthy penguin, Lenny, was also scanned to directly compare healthy penguin scans to Brock's scans. A 35-year old penguin is considered geriatric. The OU Health Sciences Center has been providing the Oklahoma City Zoo with CT scans at no cost to allow radiology students to gain experience with the technology. CT examination revealed Brock had lung disease with an appearance consistent with pulmonary cancer. In light of his diagnosis, he was humanely euthanized a few weeks later. Cancer was confirmed at necropsy.

We received an injured female bald eagle in September 2015. Estimated to be five years old, the bird was unable to use her legs, suggesting spinal trauma likely due to being hit by a car. Through medical support and physical therapy, she regained strength and control of her legs. The eagle was hospitalized at Tulsa Zoo for several months for recovery before being sent to our wildlife rehabilitation colleagues at Wild Heart Ranch, where she was conditioned for release in their 100-foot flight cage. A few months later she was released at Lake Oologah.

Routine health checks were done on all nine of our black and white lemurs. The lemurs received exams, radiographs, blood work, ultrasounds and vaccinations. Four were then transported to the OSU veterinary hospital in Stillwater to receive CT scans to assess gastrointestinal lesions in our troop. Diet modifications we instituted a year ago appear to have improved the clinical signs as well as possibly improved the radiographic visible signs of disease.

We also performed routine health checks on our three female, four-year-old African painted dogs. All three received full exams, radiographs, blood work, vaccinations, dental exams and ultrasounds. Reproductive specialists from the OSU veterinary hospital performed endometrial biopsies to help us assess the health of their reproductive tracts. The information gained from these health assessments will guide SSP recommendations for breeding and assist us in our preventative health plan.

Director of Animal Health Dr. Kay Backues continues to be active in the research and study of tuberculosis in elephants. In September, she attended the United States Animal Health Association conference in Providence, RI, as a representative for the stakeholder's task force on management and research priorities of tuberculosis in elephants. Dr. Backues gave a presentation on the task forces' recommendations for the diagnosis, treatment and management of tuberculosis in elephants in human care. In October, she attended the annual American Association of Zoo Veterinarians conference in Portland, OR. She presented a poster entitled "Documented Cessation of Mycobacterial Shedding with Antibiotic Treatment in a Mycobacteria-tuberculosis-Positive Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) by Serial Culture and Direct Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction Testing of Trunk Wash Samples."

Dr. Backues, acting as the AAZV representative for the elephant care stakeholder's task force for tuberculosis management, met in December with Kevin Shea, head of USDA APHIS, and Dr. Chester Gipson, former head of USDA Animal Care, to discuss the recent announcement of the finalization of the USDA's Voluntary Elephant Tuberculosis policy. Additionally, Dr. Backues met with the new head of USDA Animal Care Bernadette Juarez to follow up on task force priorities. ►

### **IN MEMORIUM**

Dorsey, one of our male sea lions, was humanely euthanized on April 19, 2016. He had been monitored for some time due to issues with his left front flipper. Animal care staff had been working closely with the Animal Health team to investigate why he would sometimes not put weight on that flipper when moving on solid ground. During this time, we were able to provide supportive care through medications and monitoring his behaviors. An immobilization performed in October 2015 to treat an eye issue allowed us to examine him further but it still provided no clear answers. In order to recheck his eye and look more closely at his left flipper, he was again anesthetized. Blood work analysis, biopsies, and radiographs were all performed quickly and efficiently under anesthesia. Results confirmed the existence of bone cancer throughout the large bone of the upper arm/flipper that was causing the visible lameness. Due to the poor prognosis, our teams determined that Dorsey's quality of life was seriously compromised and agreed it was best to end his discomfort through humane euthanasia. Dorsey passed away in his exhibit holding area surrounded by his caregivers.

Dorsey was born at Tulsa Zoo on May 29, 1993. The majority of his nearly 23 years were spent at Tulsa Zoo, with a brief twoyear excursion to the Oklahoma City Zoo while Helmerich Sea Lion Cove was constructed, opening in 2012. The median life expectancy of a sea lion in human care is 23.3 years. Dorsey was able to meet that through the excellent care he received at the Tulsa Zoo.







On April 12, 2016, we humanely euthanized our male jaguar, Bebeto. While we do not know his actual birth date, he was estimated to be over 20 years old. The median life expectancy of a jaguar in human care is 16.8 years. Bebeto was able to wellsurpass that through the excellent care he received at the Tulsa Zoo. Bebeto had been diagnosed with progressive degenerative myelopathy, which is a progressive degeneration of the spinal cord. Our animal care and veterinary staff had been monitoring him closely over the past year and his disease began to progress; he became more and more unsteady until finally his mobility and appetite decreased rapidly. Due to his advanced age our teams determined that Bebeto's quality of life was seriously compromised and agreed it was best to end his discomfort through humane euthanasia.

Bebeto was born in Bolivia and taken in by a local zoo while still a young cub. In 2005, he was imported to the Fort Worth Zoo and arrived at the Tulsa Zoo on April 26, 2007. Over the past several years, Bebeto and female jaguar, Ixchel, produced three jaguar cubs that are now at other AZA institutions as part of the Jaguar SSP. Most recently, cub Seymour, was moved to the Stone Zoo in Boston. We will continue to work with the Jaguar SSP to plan for Tulsa Zoo's continued involvement to sustain this threatened species.





# BEHAVIORAL HUSBANDRY

### TRAINING

The Behavioral Husbandry department worked with the zookeeper staff to train the young tiger cubs to respond to their name, station for training sessions, and learn how to touch a target held by a zookeeper.

In June 2016, seven zookeepers attended the on-grounds animal training class. Marcie Tarvid, Curator of Behavioral Husbandry, presented animal training techniques and methodology to zookeepers in a classroom setting with innovative methods involving the training game for the class participants. Upon completion of the class, keepers have an understanding of how the welfare of the animals can be increased in their daily interactions through the use of animal training.

Animal training is part of the animal care staff's daily routine. One keeper was tasked with training a Diana monkey to voluntarily go into a mesh crate and sit while the door was closed in order to facilitate international transport. Our young male sea lion, Cicso, continued cold laser treatments for his existing sharkbite wound. These treatments required that he be trained to lie horizontal while a veterinary technician applies the laser light to his wound to aid with the regeneration of tissue. Our female jaguar was trained to open her mouth on cue. This behavior allows us to check the condition of her teeth.



Approximate amount of food used for animals at the Tulsa Zoo.

COMMISSARY

# GRAIN 60,000 lbs/yr

PRODUCE 96,000 lbs/yr

204.23

FISH 31,824 lbs/yr

ALFALFA 450 bales/yr

HAY 4,080 bales/yr

RATS 3,960/yr

QUAIL 768/yr

RABBITS 576/yr

CRICKETS 1,104,000/yr

MICE 36,960/yr





EDUCATION'S SPRING CAMPERS CREATED STAR WARS THEMED ENRICHMENT FOR THE GRIZZLY BEARS.





# **CONSERVATION** & RESEARCH

The Tulsa Zoo continues to develop and expand conservation partnerships with the implementation of a new Conservation Strategic Plan. Our conservation efforts have been tremendously successful through the cultivation of new partnerships with various AZA institutions, regional agencies and conservation organizations. We continue to support programs that focus on the conservation of wild populations and habitats of various species of wildlife such as Komodo dragons, primates, elephants, chinchillas, snow leopards and tigers, as well as programs centered on the sustainability of people within the communities.

We continued our support of anti-poaching of rhinos through the International Rhino Foundation's Stop Poaching Now Campaign. The Tulsa Zoo is committed to rhino conservation and we are on the front line of support for rhino protection efforts, reintroduction projects and community programs. Through IRF, we help support this crucial campaign to stop poaching of rhinos in Africa. Much of the Stop Poaching Now Campaign messaging is highlighted throughout our Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve. This campaign is in direct response to the increasing demand for rhino horn in China, Vietnam and other Asian countries.

The Tulsa Zoo Conservation Program developed four new partnerships this year. The first is the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Scarlet Macaw Population Recovery Program located near Tikal in Northern Guatemala in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. The goal of the program is to develop aviculture and husbandry applications for wild species recovery that will subsequently propel the restoration of parrot populations across Latin America. This is accomplished by reducing the frequency of macaw poaching through spatial monitoring and reporting patrols, protecting nesting sites from deforestation, fire and Africanized bee infestations and undertaking annual evaluations of macaw nesting success.

We directly support the project's veterinarian field station with new macaw flight cages, laboratory equipment, and other health management essentials such as macaw medicine and food, which will improve their conservation impact on the ground. These efforts will hopefully lead to a significant increase in the rate of fledgling success. Since 2002, the Wildlife Conservation Society's Guatemala Program has implemented conservation interventions to ensure the survival of Guatemala's extremely threatened scarlet macaw population. Current estimates suggest that there are less than 1,000 individuals of the northern subspecies that currently survive in isolated populations across southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Approximately only 250 wild scarlet macaws persist in the Maya Biosphere Reserve of Guatemala.

The second new conservation partnership is with the Wild Nature Institute in Northern Tanzania, Africa. We are supporting the expansion of a unique giraffe demography study used in identifying and tracking wild giraffes by utilizing their unique spot patterns to understand individual movements and survival. Giraffe populations throughout Africa are in trouble from habitat loss and overhunting. This conservation work examines the effects of humans, natural predation, and disease on giraffe ► populations. This organization's mission is to research, educate and advocate for conservation of giraffes to ensure the health of savanna ecosystems so future generations can experience the beauty and majesty of the world's tallest animal.

The Tulsa Zoo Conservation Program also began a new conservation partnership with the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project. This important project focuses on studying Southern ground hornbill's genetics, behavior and other important unanswered questions necessary for successful re-establishment of ground hornbills throughout South Africa. Our partnership provides support for the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project's Awareness Campaigns that educate the local communities about the threats facing this important species and to reinstate the bird into areas where it has become locally extinct. We will also be providing support to purchase VHF and satellite transmitters that are essential for the reintroduction project. The transmitters are attached to the hornbills when the birds undergo their final health check prior to release into the wild. The transmitters help monitor the birds after release, especially when the birds cannot

be visually checked. Usually this monitoring is done by members of the local community to ensure they are engaged in the conservation efforts. The project creates jobs in the areas where the releases take place and local stakeholders provide valuable information that contributes to the overall understanding and conservation of the species in the wild.

Lastly, the Tulsa Zoo continues to establish conservation partnerships with various local groups and organizations. This past year, we expanded our conservation efforts within Oklahoma by developing a partnership with Oklahoma State University and the conservation of the American burying beetles. The American burying beetle is a member of the carrion beetle family and is an important species, recycling decaying materials back into the ecosystem. This beetle is the largest carrion-feeding insect in North America and was included as an endangered species in the Invertebrate Red Book published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in 1983. In the United States, it was placed on the state and federal endangered species lists in August 1989. The Tulsa Zoo is supporting the establishment and maintaining of a laboratory colony of American burying beetles at the

University to develop best practices for rearing and maintaining burying beetles, to develop education outreach and eventually becoming a captive breeding program for the reintroduction of these beetles within the United States.

We continue working with Oxley Nature Center to help organize and conduct citizen science projects such as annual bird and butterfly counts within Mohawk Park and city wide. The zoo supported the annual Tulsa city creek cleanup and is part of a design committee for the Crow Creek Demonstration Garden Project in Brookside. The project is aimed at improving the Crow Creek watershed by creating a demonstration site for residents. The goal is to show the value of creating buffers, particularly with native plants, along the stream to help filter runoff and prevent erosion.

We are supporting the expansion of a unique giraffe demography study used in identifying and tracking wild giraffes by utilizing their unique spot patterns...

The Tulsa Zoo is a founding member of the Monarch Initiative of Tulsa (MIT). This initiative is made up of local conservationists and gardeners to focus on monarch butterfly conservation within the City of Tulsa and the State of Oklahoma. The group consists of representatives from Oxley Nature Center, Tulsa Botanic Garden, Tulsa Garden Center, Riverfield Country Day School and Sustainable Tulsa. This group supports the creation of Monarch Watch Waystations (butterfly habitats) at local business, schools and homes in hopes of making Tulsa a monarch city. MIT was instrumental in helping Oral Roberts University propagate milkweed and plant campus' first waystation.

The monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable wildlife species in the United States and an ambassador to the natural landscape of our nation. Twenty years of monarch population decline puts at risk our overall food production and health. Oklahoma plays an important role in the population of the monarch butterfly because it is in the center of the monarch migration path between Mexico and Canada. The Tulsa area is an ideal location to help increase the overall population of

monarchs and public awareness about the plight of monarch butterflies.

### RESEARCH

The Tulsa Zoo is committed to supporting, facilitating and conducting scientific research in the life sciences in pursuit of our mission. We extend an invitation for staff, university students and interested parties to initiate projects.

Our university research projects partners include Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University, Ohio State University, Missouri State University, Auburn University, University of Utah, Western Kentucky University, Mississippi State University, just to name a few.

The Tulsa Zoo established a multiyear research collaboration with Oklahoma State University for osteohistological research and to build an osteohistology thin section database through the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. This research and the establishment of a database will provide an understanding of the bone biology of modern animals. The research will help paleohistologists better support or reject life

history hypotheses proposed for extinct vertebrates as well as add to scientists understanding of osteology in living animals

We also participated in a behavioral research project working with Asian elephants, titled, The Role of Chemical Signals in Asian Elephant Society with Applications for Conservation. The overall scope of the study looked at social behavior of wild and captive elephants to help discover ways to better understand Asian elephants and to try to decrease the amount of human and elephant conflict in the wild. Human-elephant conflict continues to pose a serious threat to wild Asian elephant populations. Tulsa Zoo elephant keeper staff assisted researchers from Western Kentucky University with placing varying concentrations of biologically relevant chemical signals throughout their exhibit. Researchers conducted observations that helped them in determining particular interest and behaviors of our elephants **>** 



toward specific chemical signals. The data collected from the study will be utilized to develop management strategies for wild Asian elephants.

Tulsa Zoo hosted undergraduate research students from Oral Roberts University to conduct various student research projects. Notable projects included looking at the effects of two different light sources within the Fiji iguana's exhibit in the Conservation Center building. The study observed the iguana's behavior under ultraviolet lighting and compared the iguana's behavior under a proposed new LED lighting system. A second ORU student conducted a research project observing Monarch Waystations throughout Tulsa, including at Oxley Nature Center, Tulsa Botanic Garden and the Tulsa Zoo. The zoo currently has three gardens that are certified Monarch Watch Waystations by the Kansas State University conservation program. Garden observations will be conducted to document activity and usage to examine if the current Monarchs Waystations are successful in every life cycle of the monarch butterfly.

### **GREEN PRACTICES**

With the new Green Practices Strategic Plan, the Tulsa Zoo works to reduce its impact on the environment and lead by example in the city, county, state, and in the larger zoo and aquarium community by embracing green practices in our everyday operations.

The Tulsa Zoo defines green practices as a fundamental value that moves us toward our goal of environmentally neutral operations. This includes participating in opportunities that lead to energy and resource efficiencies, stewardship of resources, knowledge of and sensitivity to our impacts on the environment, practicing more sustainable consumer options, and reducing our ecological footprint through on-site initiatives and community partnerships that foster green practices.

The Tulsa Zoo Green Practices program is constantly exploring ways to be good stewards to our planet. We accomplish this by recycling and repurposing resources that would otherwise be considered waste. Occasionally, through our operations, we come across items that are considered bad for the environment and must be handled in a different manner. One item fitting in this category are thermostats that contain mercury. This year, we began recycling thermostats through a local recycling program that diverts this mercury from both landfills and our atmosphere. Our waste partner Covanta Tulsa, as well as Locke Supply and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality have partnered to provide a convenient way to responsibly recycle thermostats containing mercury in Oklahoma. Anyone living in the Tulsa area is able to recycle intact old thermostats to any Locke Supply location for recycling free of charge. Mercury is a heavy metal that represents a threat to human health and the environment when released into the environment. An average wall thermostat contains four grams of mercury, which is the equivalent of 800 compact fluorescent lights. The Tulsa Zoo is committed to protecting our land, air and water; so preventing toxics like mercury from entering the waste stream through proper recycling is a priority.

We have also found ways to reduce our waste stream through the recycling of E-Waste. This is electronic products and equipment near the end of their useful life. Through our recycling partnership with the Metropolitan Environmental Trust we have recycled computers, keyboards, small security monitors, printers, scanners, phones, fluorescent light bulbs and much more. When these products are no longer used or simply unwanted the Tulsa Zoo will always consider these items for re-purposing, refurbishing or recycling.

We also continue to look at ways to reduce our energy usage by completing lighting upgrades where we can and the Nature Exchange building is one of most recent areas of the zoo to have a substantial change. This area was singled out due to shortlived halogens in use and the consistent need for replacement. This upgrade includes the entirety of the guest area of the Nature Exchange and resulted in a lighting energy reduction from 0.75 kWh to 0.080 kWh. We also were able to complete similar upgrades in the guest area of the Macaw Landing Grille.

The Tulsa Zoo is now a business member of Sustainable Tulsa. Sustainable Tulsa promotes a thriving society, economic growth, and environmental stewardship, which are mutually reinforcing the pillars of sustainability. The organization strives for successes in People, Profit, and Planet. As a new member, the Tulsa Zoo was an official sponsor of one of the B2B meeting series. Sustainable Tulsa's Business Council brings together businesses to learn from other businesses about the benefits of sustainability through various Business to Business Case study series for Sustainability. This guarterly series is an opportunity for Oklahoma businesses and institutions to learn from each other about the benefits of sustainability to the bottom line. Also, as business member we continue to partner with many business leaders and government agencies as well as the City of Tulsa, in developing a sustainable score card program for the entire City of Tulsa. The Tulsa Zoo participated in the Sustainable Tulsa Score Card as a pilot program member which allowed the Zoo to establish benchmarks, cornerstones and goals for developing greener practices within our operations. The Tulsa Zoo is one of many local businesses who completed the Sustainable Tulsa Score Card pilot program and are excited to be a part of this important and unprecedented project.



### HORTICULTURE

As a vital aspect of the zoo visitor's experience, our Horticulture department worked diligently to make a botanical presence that created both a relaxing atmosphere and an intriguing floral palette. In the greenhouse/nursery complex, staff propagated over 12,000 plants that were then planted on grounds throughout the year. These were in the form of vegetative cuttings, seedlings, purchased plugs, and donated plants. Through the entire process of growing the multitude of plants and their installation around grounds and in animal exhibits, and then maintaining them for optimal health and presentation, the Horticulture department had a successful year.

The zoo's horticulture presence made a significant improvement with the completion of the Pollinator and Water-Wise Gardens located within the Conservation Gardens (on the corner leading into elephants). The Pollinator Garden demonstrates the use of specific plants that attract pollinators such as birds, insects, bats, etc. The Water-Wise Garden focuses on plants that best utilize available water to them. A bonus to this new garden complex was relief to Zoo traffic across the area with a network of decomposed granite pathways. The objective of the gardens was to provide a beautiful new experience with an educational component for guests and garden enthusiasts.

In preparation for Lost Kingdom construction, Horticulture staff arranged to have seven trees removed from the area and relocated on grounds. Of these seven, five survived the move and fully leafed out and look like established trees in their new locations. The Horticulture team also cleared a pathway near the chimpanzee exhibit to assist our Operations crew with the construction of a temporary route for guests during Lost Kingdom construction.



HORTICULTURE'S NUSERY AREA

The zoo had the great fortune of being the recipient of more than 20,000 square feet of Bermuda sod from the Tulsa Drillers and Tulsa Roughnecks. This sod was available as a result of field alterations necessary at the ONEOK Field to accommodate soccer and baseball being played on the same field. This sod was utilized in rhino and elephant yards as either new installations or replacement for damaged areas. Also, this same sod source was used to cover the new dig barrier installed along the perimeter fence adjacent to the Mohawk Golf course.

A planting of 2,000 daffodil bulbs was made along the train route as a general spring beautification effort. This was a second such planting and will be continued over the coming years to give a splash of early spring color.

Throughout the past year, the Horticulture department conducted tours of the grounds to students from Tulsa Community College and from Tulsa School for Arts & Sciences and was the host to Up With Trees' monthly tree walk.





# **EDUCATION**

### **ZOO EDUCATION OVERVIEW**

The Education department reached 105,999 participants and visitors throughout the region and neighboring states during 650 programs and presentations. From toddlers to grandparents, the zoo was able to teach all ages about the natural world through camps, overnights, outreaches, new classes, and on-grounds programs and activities.

All camps and overnights continued to increase attendance with both spring break and summer camps being 100% full. The L.U.N.A. (Learning from Ultimate Nocturnal Adventures) overnights also increased in repeat participants and benefited from recommendations given by previous participants. Some teachers have started to incorporate the overnight curriculums into their lesson plans. One particular fourth grade overnight was memorable since it was the first time that most of the students had ever visited a zoo.

The Cox Nature Exchange hosted 23,714 visitors and educated 729 active traders during 1,361 trades. Both parents and teachers started taking notice of the learning opportunities that Cox Nature Exchange offers and used it as an educational resource. One teacher even included it in her lesson plans and made a special field trip to the zoo to allow her children to have the experience of trading at the Cox Nature Exchange.

The Zoo Teen program provided opportunities for teens to learn from hands-on experiences in the zoo field. Sixty-seven teens (ages 13-17) applied for the 2016 Zoo Teen program. After completing the interview, selection, and training process, 29 teens participated in the program. The Zoo Teens represented 10 different cities and volunteered a total of 4,498 hours while developing new skills and experiences in the area of education, horticulture, and animal husbandry. The third, fourth and fifth year teens learned leadership skills as Zoo Teen supervisors. For the first time, the fourth and fifth year teens were allowed to expand their knowledge in the area of their interests, which included veterinary medicine, marketing/PR, behavioral husbandry, and marine mammals.

All volunteer programs (Wild Bunch, Docent, Rainforest Rangers, and Children's Zoo) were combined under the Education department this year. Together our 194 active adult volunteers donated 17,460 hours of their time, an increase of over 4,000 hours from last fiscal year. The volunteers educated guests of all ages about the natural world, assisted many departments during special events and high traffic times, completed special projects, and worked regularly in several areas on grounds. Two volunteers were celebrated as they entered their 35th year of volunteering at the zoo. In the coming year, new opportunities and additional trainings will be available to the zoo volunteers while the volunteer base continues to support the mission of the zoo. ▶



### STEM

Environmental Science has always been the foundation for education at the Tulsa Zoo, so the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) school initiatives fit perfectly with the zoo's educational goals. In 2015-16, the Tulsa Zoo provided STEM programming in various venues.

For the ninth year, the Education department was one of the teaching partners for a multi-facility, two-week professional development program for elementary teachers called SENSEsational Science. The 44 participating teachers learned how to incorporate science into their lessons by integrating it with literacy and mathematics using senses as the unifying theme. For the first time, SENSEsational Science was offered to middle school teachers with energy as the main focus. The Education department was one of several facilities that taught the 32 middle school teachers about how to incorporate the science of energy into their lesson plans.

The second education event for OK Women in STEM was hosted by the Tulsa Zoo. Sponsored by the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and organized by our Education department, 180 young women from Tulsa, Jenks, Union, Owasso, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Skiatook, Metro Christian Academy, Dove Science Academy, Collinsville, and Broken Arrow middle and high schools spent a day interacting with our female zoo staff. The event was geared towards encouraging more female students to enter STEM fields. Since the zoo uses STEM every day, it was viewed as a place to open student's minds to all the possible STEM careers available to women, not just the most obvious ones. Due to the success of last year's event, we increased the number of participants by 50 this year and still had over 200 students on the waiting list.

The Tulsa Area Professional Development Consortium, The Eighth Floor, is a technology and learning center for educators that focuses on the integration of technology in the classroom. The Eighth Floor provides professional development for over 9,000 educators in the Tulsa area and hired our Education department to provide programming during their two-week Technology Safari class. The teachers learned how to create engaging learning opportunities for their students through the integration of technology and zoo-based science.

The Tulsa Zoo was one of the few informal education organizations invited by the Governor's Office to attend the Governor's STEM Summit to learn more about the state's direction in STEM education. It was reassuring to note there were many parallels between the work the zoo has done over the last year in STEM education and the goals the governor outlined at this conference.

### NATURE'S PROGRAMS

Another way in which the Education department is meeting the changing needs of our audience was through a series called Nature's Programs. These programs were designed to connect participants with nature, help them understand basic nature concepts, show them how to enjoy nature anywhere, and build an appreciation for conservation. The programs have been wellreceived. Nature's Buddies helped parents learn to engage their toddler's wonder and curiosity about nature through both structured and facilitated exploratory programming. Last year's inaugural season proved to be popular so additional classes and spaces were added to the series for 2015-16. It has been very gratifying to see the program achieve the goal of encouraging children to explore nature, providing a safety net for parents, and creating a foundation for future learning about the natural world.

Nature's Night Owls, a fun evening for single adults where they could socialize while they learned about the natural world, continued to grow with two new programs this year while encouraging this particular demographic to view the zoo as a resource.

The Education department began teaching a program called Nature's Classrooms, the first in a series of teacher professional development for outdoor classrooms, to Jenks Public Schools PreK-6th grade teachers. The goal of this professional development series was to cultivate confidence, provide curriculum/content and create an online network to share information about each school's outdoor classroom area. After the first session, many teachers commented that they feel more confident and now have simple ways to use their outdoor space to engage their students in nature while meeting standards and teaching integrated STEM curriculum.

The Nature Play Begins at Your Zoo & Aquarium grant through AZA and The Walt Disney Company was awarded to the Education department to create an enclosed Nature Play area behind Cox Nature Exchange. Scheduled to open in early 2017, the Nature Experience will extend zoo visitors' access to and knowledge of the natural world through experiential learning.

### PARTNERSHIPS

The zoo is a resource for science education throughout the community and region.

The Education department partnered with Tulsa Public Schools to provide three professional development classes for teachers, focusing on standards in need of improvement for the corresponding grade levels. Our unique zoo twist makes the topics approachable and engaging for students. Over 80 teachers attended with two classes requiring a wait list. This is the first time an informal education partner has been invited to present at a Tulsa Public School Professional Development Day of this scale. Most classes are taught by mentor teachers and other administrative staff.

After last year's successful pilot program, OSUTeach once again chose to partner with us to provide OSU students interested in science and math with experience in non-traditional teaching fields. Two OSU students worked in the Education department for 20 hours per week for eight weeks this summer to learn how children are taught science in informal settings.

Due to budget cuts, some Union district schools were faced with losing funding for after-school programming. A few Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative coordinators, who schedule afterschool programs for Union, applied for an art grant and created a partnership between the Tulsa Zoo, Tulsa Glass Blowing Studio and the Tulsa Symphony, resulting in four Art and Science After-School Clubs. The zoo's Education department taught the science of colors in nature, the Glass Blowing Studio taught colors in art as related to color wavelengths, and the symphony discussed wavelengths as related to sound. It was exciting to see how a negative turned into a positive, thanks to an innovative approach.

As part of the collaborative, multi-organization YMCA Summer GO program, the Education department presented 35 hours of programming over the course of seven days to four different elementary schools. Over 1,000 first through fifth graders were taught how color and sound are utilized in nature.

# "I loved it! I wish every TPS educator could go to this training!"

- "I think the content I learned today will challenge my students and allow them to have fun while learning."
- "It was absolutely wonderful. I got so many ideas of things we can implement in our classroom!"
- "I appreciated the organization and the friendliness of the staff. Thank you!!"

This was my daughter's 4th year at camp. We have traveled from Taiwan and Kuwait over the years to attend the theme of her choice. Thank you for the wonderful experiences every summer!

"Awesome job! Thanks for the welcoming environment you created for my son!"

"The boys had a great time. Being at camp changes how much they enjoy our zoo trips throughout the year!" \*

# <complex-block>

BIGGER. BETTER.



THANK YOU, neighbor, for choosing the Tulsa Zoo among the best area family getaways! To show our appreciation, we invite you to hang out at the Tulsa Zoo with a BOGO offer.

LET'S HANG OUT

MAGAZINE

RUNNER-UP

Buy one general admission ticket and receive a second general admission ticket (of equal or lesser value) for free when you present this coupon.

WWW.TULSAZOO.ORG 6421 East 36<sup>th</sup> Street North Tulsa OK, 74115

> THE TULSA ZOO IS A PERFECT SPOT TO HANG OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY. . . AND

6

TulsaZoo

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Your picturesque Tulsa Zoo earned the distinction of most Instagrammed destination in the state of Oklahoma in 2015. Travel site busbud.com made the state-by-state determinations based on popular TripAdvisor destinations with the most hashtags on Instagram.

This year we launched a redesigned tulsazoo.org, including an improved mobile user experience. Within one month of the relaunch, access by mobile device rose from approximately 30% to more than 70%, quickly bringing us to meet the standard of how visitors want to access our site.

To highlight our position as the region's largest daily attraction, advertising included the zoo as a destination through a "come hang with us" theme, showcasing animals near and dear to guests. A secondary, "bigger, better zoo" theme highlighted our efforts to rebuild and improve the zoo.

Our earned media focused on our animals, the care our experts provide and the ways we live our mission. Top news stories for the year included features on our bald eagle rehabilitation and release efforts. Our top social media posts for the year featured animal milestones, including the passing of beloved sea lion Dorsey and jaguar Bebeto, the arrival of two-year-old giraffe Hekaya, and den cam of jaguar cub Babette, the offspring of Bebeto.

The Tulsa Zoo is an impressive promotional partner with our 636,190 guests, our third highest attendance year. We sought promotional opportunities that enhanced the guest experience, directly benefited zoo operations or our capital campaign, and supported the zoo's mission. Additionally, we joined forces with other area organizations to collectively benefit our community.

We are grateful to our promotional and community partners, which included Coca-Cola, Mathis Brothers Furniture, as well as Frito-Lay through AZA Saving Animals From Extinction, the BOK Center and Tulsa County Library System.



# DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

### **DREAMNIGHT 2015**

- We welcomed 540 guests to Dreamnight 2015. Children from Happy Hands, a school for the deaf, Little Light House, a school for special needs children, and Wright Elementary Deaf Education Program attended the event with their families.
- Keeper chats, a sea lion presentation, giraffe feeding and education games were offered throughout the evening.
- Children also visited the St. John's Plush Hospital to take home a mini giraffe plush as a souvenir of their night at the zoo.

### ST. JOHN ZOORUN PRESENTED BY NEW BALANCE TULSA

- 3,028 runners raced through Mohawk Park and the zoo in the 46th annual St. John ZooRun Presented by New Balance Tulsa in October 2015.
- 1,317 runners participated in the 1-mile St. John Fun Run, 1,142 participants ran the 5k and 538 participants ran the 10k.
- Over \$54,000 was raised to benefit the Building Beyond Your Wildest Dreams capital campaign.
- Thank you to our 2015 sponsors: St. John Health System, New Balance Tulsa, Linda Brown – real estate, Ross Group, R.E. Patterson, AbsoluteLee Essential Oils, Admiral Express, Downtown Tulsa Eye Care, and Reasor's.





**HALLOWZOOEEN 2015** 

• 16,648 ghosts and goblins attended our annual five-night trick-or-treat event raising a total of \$86,079.55.

tulsazoo

• Thank you to our generous sponsors: Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company, American Airlines, Burger King, CommunityCare, Carter Family Orthodontics, Emerson Orthodontics, First OK Federal Credit Union, Hilti, IHOP Restaurants, OU Physicians of Tulsa, QuikTrip, Spirit AeroSystems, Subway, BP America, Helmerich & Payne, and Sky Zone.



6min









WALTZ CHAIRS SARA & RYAN BARRY WITH PRESEDENT/CEO TERRIE CORRELL

### WALTZ ON THE WILD SIDE 2016

- WALTZ on the Wild Side celebrated its 26th year and welcomed 1,185 guests.
- This year's theme was WALTZ into the Tropics, transporting guests into a tropical setting of themed cocktails, food from more than 45 local restaurants and dancing to the music of the ever popular band Professor D.
- Over \$222,000 was raised to benefit the Building Beyond Your Wildest Dreams capital campaign.



# **PRIVATE EVENTS**

Our Private Events department had a fourth consecutive recordbreaking year, ending with gross revenue in excess of \$525,000, which exceeded our sales goal. More than 25,000 guests attended one of the 75 company events, eight weddings, 99 birthday parties, seven proms, and 10 other social or business events. The total of 199 events broke the zoo's record for most events held in one fiscal year by 15%.

In addition to private events, we once again offered Breakfast with Santa, which included a hot breakfast, holiday crafts and festivities, and photo opportunities with Santa Claus. This year we also added Breakfast with the Bunny, a similar spring-themed event with the Easter Bunny. We also brought back a revised Wild at Heart Valentine event, which included an upscale plated dinner, live music, animal encounters, and a humorous, lighthearted presentation on love and lust in the animal kingdom.



BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

# ATTRACTIONS

- Purchased a third train to help increase the revenue and meet the demands of our growing zoo.
- Added shark teeth and fossil bags to our Hardesty Gem Dig and Sluice.
- Hired a full-time Attractions mechanic to ensure the trains and carousel are kept up to standards and to perform regular service.
- Installed an automated tour on the trains to help the train engineer focus on safety and operations.
- Continued to install 100% recycled plastic railroad ties under the train track.
- Started the trains on synthetic oils, which will help the trains run a longer life.

# **EXHIBITS**

The Exhibits & Design department produced more than 34,250 square feet of printed product for the zoo this year. These included animal identification signs, menu updates, window stickers, temporary signage, event materials, banners, train crossings, decals, ground graphics, templates, bird strike, fence panels, stickers, hazard labels, certificates, and plaques, just to name a few.

The baby rhino sculpture, nicknamed Runt, was cast in bronze and placed at the Mary K Chapman Rhino Reserve. The Building Beyond Plaza was completed, highlighting our 20-year Master Plan. Also, the former prairie dog exhibit was converted to a play area for small children with replica domestic animals for children to climb animal themed benches.

Over 29,720 pounds of concrete was sculpted onsite this year by our Exhibits team. It was applied in many areas, including the repair and renovation of the WildLIFE Trek's Life in the Water shoreline exhibit, new housing for the Grand Cayman Island blue iguanas, the mission ring at the new Building Beyond Plaza, and kopje rock mounds at the Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve.

# **GUEST SERVICES**

### ADMISSIONS

- Attendance = 636,910. Third largest attendance year on record 1997-98 = 669,928 and 2014-15 = 637,928
- March was our largest attended month of the year with 84,432 guests.
- Spring Break admission line times were cut to less than 10 minutes this year, down from almost to 40 minutes in 2013.
- We welcomed 33,735 school children, teachers and adult chaperones during field trips.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- Membership revenue fell just short of an all-time record by bringing in over \$1.3 million dollars during the fiscal year.
- 2015-16 membership renewal rate was 62% up from 58% in 2014-15.
- Membership ended the year with 16,540 member households, up more than 2,000 households over a two-year period.
- We set an all-time membership revenue record in the month of May 2016 with \$338,262.
- Our partnership with Mathis Brothers Furniture resulted in the sale of 6,000 memberships, which eclipsed the record by over 1,000 memberships!

# FINANCIAL Summary

Earned Revenue*	\$3,94	47,881	33.25% -	
Memberships	\$1,36	63,653	11.49% -	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Management Fee	\$5,82	L0,080	48.94% -	
Contributions/Education/				
Special Events/Temporary Exhibits**	\$38	36,926	3.26% -	
General***	\$36	63,491	3.06% -	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,872,031	100%		
Administration	\$3,18	86,884	27.23% -	
Guest Services	\$1,46	64,113	12.51% -	-
Facilities & Grounds	\$2,20	0,959	18.80% -	
Education/Special Events/Temporary E	Exhibits \$47	73,339	4.04% -	
Animal Conservation & Science	\$3,82	14,316	32.59% -	. /
Zoo Improvements	\$50	64,797	4.83% -	/
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,70	)4,408	100%	

### TOTAL REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES \$167,623

\* Admissions, Concessions, Gift Shop, Attractions, Private Events

\*\* Contributions/Education/Special Events includes Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve, Lost Kingdom Complex, Education Programs, HallowZOOeen, Zoorassic Park

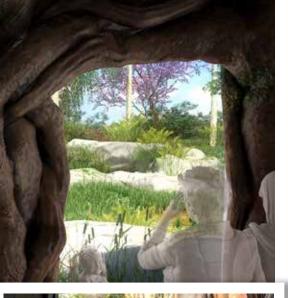
\*\*\*Investment Income, Grants and Other Revenues

ADDITIONAL FOOTNOTES

Some of the funds included in these lines are reported differently on our audtied financial statements due to reporting classification.

Total Expenditures does not include depreciation expense or in-kind contributions such as utilities paid for by the City of Tulsa.





# **BUILDING BEYOND**

On, July 8, 2015, city officials, donors and staff gathered next to the BOK Pavilion to break ground on the zoo's newest exhibit, the Lost Kingdom exhibit complex. The \$21 million complex is the second project of the 20-year master plan to rebuild the zoo and will be home to our Malayan tigers, snow leopards, Komodo dragons, and siamangs, plus new species to the Tulsa Zoo including red pandas, binturongs, Chinese alligators and demoiselle cranes.

Shortly after the groundbreaking, the 5-acre site was cleared of all structures, and trees were relocated throughout the zoo or repurposed in animal exhibits. Once the site was prepped, Nabholz Construction set up onsite to begin work. Construction was swift throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year and could be viewed through the construction camera set up on the WildLIFE Trek Life in the Water building, giving staff and guests a birds-eye view of the progress.

The Lost Kingdom exhibit complex will not only provide larger spaces for each of the species, but both outdoor and indoor spaces so guests will be able to view the animals year-round regardless of weather. Training areas will be an integral part of the exhibit, providing zookeepers areas in which to work with the animals, demonstrating the operant training necessary for their care and providing educational opportunities to guests. The complex will feature a full-service restaurant in the George Kaiser Family Foundation Special Events Pavilion, allowing guests to dine up close with the tigers while enjoying a meal. A new outdoor snack shop will replace the old Trunk Stop Café and will offer three shaded seating areas where guests can relax with a sweet or salty treat, and enjoy fantastic views of the wildlife around them.

Thanks to our generous donors including The Helmerich Trust, City of Tulsa Taxpayers through the Improve our Tulsa initiative, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Hardesty Family Foundation, Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, Ann and Jack Graves Foundation, The H.A. and Mary K. Chapman Foundation, The Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation, Hille Foundation, Bank of Oklahoma, E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, The Mervin Bovaird Foundation, Alma and Nick Robson Foundation, Frank and Gayle Eby, Williams, and The Oxley Foundation, over \$18 million has been raised toward the Lost Kingdom exhibit complex. As fundraising and construction continue, we look forward to the exhibit opening in late spring 2017.

### **TULSA ZOO MISSION**

Inspiring passion for wildlife in every guest, every day.

### **TULSA ZOO VISION**

To be the premier family recreation destination and the leading wildlife education and conservation resource in Oklahoma.

### **TULSA ZOO VALUES**

**EXCELLENCE:** We have a passion for excellence and continuous improvement. We are encouraged to take initiative to improve the guest experience. We reject the status quo because we value creativity and diversity. We constantly challenge and stretch ourselves to learn new things and to grow both personally and professionally.

**INTEGRITY**: We act with integrity in everything we do. Honesty, ethics, accountability and social responsibility are fundamental to success. Our behavior must consistently reflect the zoo's core values during both good and bad times.

**CONSERVATION:** We believe in a proactive approach to the preservation of the natural world. Animal care and conservation are the heart of our organization.

**TEAMWORK**: We are an organization that expects collaboration from and within the team in order to achieve the zoo mission and the growth and development of staff and facilities. We approach situations, challenges and new ideas with an open mind. We go above and beyond, together, for every guest every time.

**STEWARDSHIP:** We will ensure responsible stewardship of the human and financial resources entrusted to us. We recognize our responsibility to be active participants in our local communities as well as the important part our communities play in supporting our efforts in education, conservation and outreach.

**FUN**: We look for humor, fun and fulfillment in our daily work. We want our organization to have a positive, unique and memorable impact for our guests and employees. We celebrate and embrace our diversity and each person's individuality.

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