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**PHOENIX ZOO OPENS PHILIP & JOELLEN DOORNBOS VOLUNTEER AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER**

***New building provides workspace for Zoo staff and volunteers***

**PHOENIX (June 24, 2015)** – The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo opened the Philip & JoEllen Doornbos Volunteer and Administrative Center , providing office, training and meeting space and showcasing the Zoo’s commitment to conservation and green practices.

As the fifth of six projects of the World Class Zoo For A World Class City Capital Campaign, the Doornbos Center was made possible through generous donations from Phil and JoEllen Doornbos, Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation, June “Bobbie” & Alfred Dapeer, Salt River Project (SRP), McMeekin Trust and Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community as well as several groups and individuals.

“This beautiful, state-of-the art facility provides a centralized place for Zoo administrative staff and volunteers to conduct the Zoo’s business,” says Bert Castro, President and CEO of the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo. “This spectacular facility was built with sustainability in mind and consists of three separate buildings, encompassing 14,000 square feet, sitting on a single, elevated deck above the front entry lake.”

The planning of the Doornbos Center considered the Zoo’s commitment to green practices and the buildings were designed to LEED standards. Some of the LEED features in the Doornbos Center include a rooftop solar system, donated from SRP, that provides nearly 50 percent of the facility’s annual energy needs which can be visually monitored through an interpretive screen in the lobby. The solar system was made possible by customers who contributed to the SRP EarthWise Energy program. Customers contribute monthly to help fund donations of solar systems to non-profits in the Valley. A unique element of the building is the HVAC system that uses the Zoo’s lake as a temperature exchange system. The Doornbos Center also has energy efficient glass windows and insulated rammed earth walls that are simple to construct, non-combustible and thermally massive, high ceilings and tall windows designed to minimize the need for daytime lighting, a solar water heating system and desert plants that will minimize the need for landscape watering.

The Doornbos Center also houses the City of Phoenix Papago Park Management Staff, providing a hub for Papago Park Rangers and other Park staff, utilizing 1,240 square feet of the three building complex. The City of Phoenix contributed to the project by releasing bond funds approved by the voters of the City for capital improvements to the Zoo. The City funded the direct cost to accommodate their staff and interpretive areas that are found outside of the building, in the public plaza.

In front of the building, the subtle design of the pavers pays tribute to the fish hatchery that once existed in this area and through signage, our guests can learn about the history of Papago Park and the plants and animals that are found here. They can also study a map illustrating all of the cultural amenities found in the Park and gain insight into the area's cultural history. Local artisan, Chris Rowley, donated the 18-by-18-foot steel tree that adorns the front of the Doornbos Center. A labor of love for Rowley, it took more than seven years to construct, using more than 10,000 feet of steel.

#### **About the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo**

The Phoenix Zoo is the only zoo in the Valley accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is a non-profit zoological park, serving 1.4 million guests annually. Home to more than 1,400 animals and many endangered and threatened species, the Zoo provides experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. For information on upcoming events, exhibits and activities at the Phoenix Zoo, visit [www.phoenixzoo.org](http://www.phoenixzoo.org).

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