

# 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING  
60 YEARS





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The Phoenix Zoo is the only zoo in the Valley accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and is a non-profit zoological park, serving nearly 1.4 million guests annually. Home to more than 3,000 animals, many of which are endangered or threatened species, the Zoo is also committed to supporting wildlife and habitat conservation in the region and across the globe. The wildlife recovery and research programs based at the Zoo are focused on boosting wild populations of 10 imperiled Arizona native species. The Zoo engages in field research, working with universities, other conservation organizations and private land managers to better understand wildlife in Arizona, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia and beyond.

Dear Zoo Friends,

Anniversaries are times for reflection. In 2022 our Zoo celebrated its 60th anniversary and we thought it fitting to have this year’s Annual Report reflect on the Zoo’s history, remembering highlights of the past and celebrating the achievements of the year.

We’ve come a long way from Operation Oryx, but we still work every day with the Arabian oryx and many other species in need of help. Who would have thought that 60 years later, from our beginnings as a fledgling Zoo struggling with its day-to-day operations, we would have matured into a world class organization known around the globe as a powerhouse of meaningful conservation? Our Zoo has been at the forefront of conservation efforts for many species, helping enhance the likelihood of their long-term survival.

We’ve had an extraordinary commitment from our community over the years. The best example is the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary. From their founding before the Zoo even opened, the dedication of this group of volunteers has been unwavering. They continue to actively support the Zoo, raising money most recently for Big Cats of Arizona, an upcoming Zoo exhibit.

Our members – now over 40,000 households strong – have supported us in so many ways, from \$8 million in membership dues to over \$1 million spent attending Zoo events and experiences. The continued support of our members is invaluable to our success. As a mission-driven organization, we understand it takes earned revenues to support the important programs that matter so much to our community and to wildlife conservation; our members understand that, too. We genuinely thank every one of you for your continued support.

In addition to our members, we must acknowledge the continued support we receive from charitable foundations and trusts including: The Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation, The Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation, Robert Kemper Corrigan Foundation, The Virginia M. Ullman Foundation, Flinn Foundation, Moreno Family Foundation, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation, Twiford Foundation, Arizona Community Foundation, Fred Maytag Family Foundation, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation and the McIntosh Family Foundation.

Corporate partners are also invaluable as supporters. We are grateful for corporations like SRP, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Valley Toyota Dealers, Swire Coca-Cola and PNC Bank. By far, the majority of our philanthropic gifts come from individual donors who believe in our mission and trust us to be good stewards of their donations. Without them, there is no way we would be the successful organization we are today.

In 2022 we continued to break ground on new exhibits while expanding and renovating several existing areas throughout the Zoo. We continued the construction of Predator Passage, the Zoo’s biggest capital project to date. In 2023 you’ll be able to visit the new home for our lions and hyenas, a return of meerkats to the Zoo and a new species for us, the Amur leopard. The exhibit will see the homecoming of our fennec foxes, a new habitat for African vultures and another new species, red river hogs.

We also began the renovation of the Zoo’s 1970 education center into the new Wild Side Gallery, the Zoo’s first space dedicated to the exhibition of art that celebrates the natural world. Additionally, the Zoo’s gift shop was remodeled and expanded in collaboration with our partner Event Network, providing an enhanced space to shop for sustainable products.

These are just some of the important highlights from 2022; you will read more details in this Annual Report. As I write this, I reflect on the fact this year is my 15th anniversary with the Phoenix Zoo, meaning that I have been here for 25% of the Zoo’s history! It’s been my honor to lead this organization of incredible staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees. I am grateful for all the support our Zoo receives from all of you.



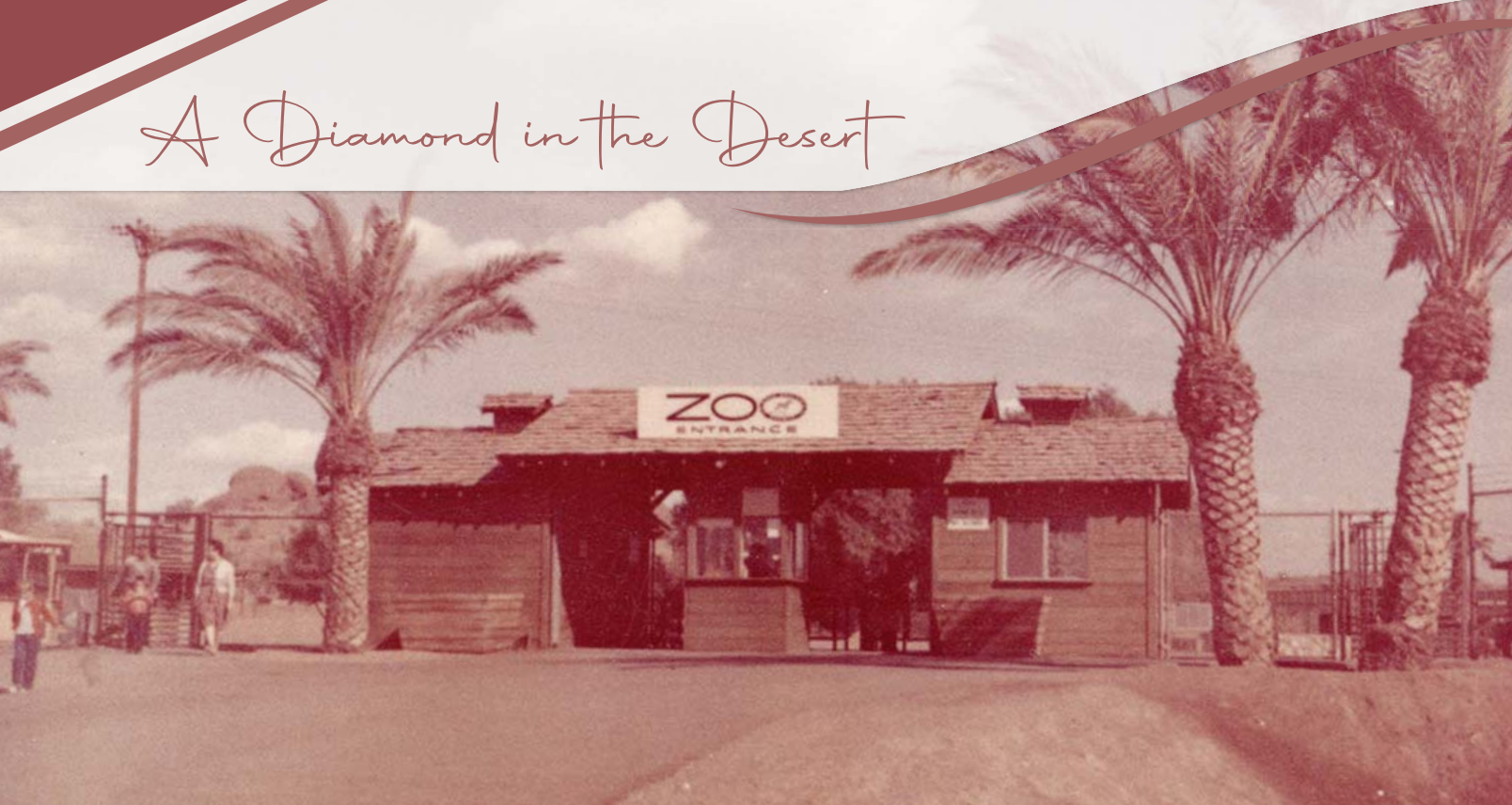
Sincerely,

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro

President / CEO  
Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo



# A Diamond in the Desert



## 60 Years of the Phoenix Zoo

As we reflect on the history of the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo – both the accomplishments and the adversity – it becomes increasingly clear how special this “diamond in the desert” truly is. That is to say, the wonderful stories that encompass our impressive track record over the past six decades are humbling and inspiring.

It all began in the spring of 1961 when Robert E. Maytag, grandson of the founder of the Maytag appliance company, called a small group of friends together at his home to discuss the idea of building a zoo in the city of Phoenix. The idea soon took off as Maytag and his “dedicated bunch of amateurs”

proceeded to garner support from other Valley leaders. The Arizona Zoological Society held its first meeting on April 27, 1961.

Since those modest beginnings, the Phoenix Zoo has transformed into a world-renowned conservation organization highlighted by Operation Oryx in the 1960s – an international mission to save the Arabian oryx, previously declared extinct in the wild. Often cited as one of the world’s most successful global wildlife conservation programs, Operation Oryx has been celebrated for its contributions to the field of conservation science. Today, more than 7,000 Arabian oryx exist world-wide, setting a precedent for subsequent successful Phoenix Zoo conservation

initiatives like our programs for the black-footed ferret, Mt. Graham red squirrel, Chiricahua leopard frog and other native species.

Originating with the ambitious vision of a dedicated philanthropist and other community leaders, the Phoenix Zoo has welcomed over 50 million guests since 1962. Born of a spirit of community and the efforts of a small group of dedicated volunteers – and carefully nurtured through the support of millions – the Phoenix Zoo has enjoyed a truly remarkable first 60 years.

And although the plethora of activities and educational experiences have been significantly enhanced, and the Zoo's research and conservation

efforts have leaped into the forefront, our mission of inspiring others and motivating them to care for the natural world remains the same.

Throughout our 2022 Annual Report, you’ll find a timeline of 60 of our most notable achievements and milestones. From our very first children’s summer camp in 1965 to being the first zoo in the world with 10,000 Twitter followers in 2010, we hope looking back will make you equally as excited for our bright future.



## PHOENIX ZOO SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1961 | MAY  
Arizona Zoological Society is Founded



1961 | SEPTEMBER  
Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary is Founded



1962 | NOVEMBER  
Opening Day



1962 | NOVEMBER  
First Habitats  
(Alligator, Giraffe, Gibbon Island & More)



1963 | JUNE  
Arabian Oryx Arrive



1964 | MAY  
First Arabian Oryx Born at the Zoo





## Greater Flamingo

The Phoenix Zoo has been home to greater flamingos since 2010, but 2022 marked the first year of successfully breeding the species! To increase the size of our flock and hopefully kickstart breeding, the San Diego Zoo Safari Park sent us 11

fertile eggs to hand raise chicks in May 2019 and seven juvenile birds in February 2020. In addition to increasing our flock size, the 11 hand-raised chicks have improved our ability to care for the entire flock. Their comfort and relaxed demeanor around staff were contagious to the adult birds, creating a much calmer flock. These hand-raised birds began nest building in 2021, which seemed to encourage several adult birds to also build nests, something they had not been too interested in before. This year they began nest building in earnest and by June we had our first egg! Some of our adult birds did not tend to their eggs very well, however, so we pulled eggs to foster them with other promising pairs during incubation. Two of our hand-raised birds formed one of the promising pairs that was chosen to foster an egg. They took to the egg instantly and successfully incubated it until it hatched on July 12. They did an amazing job as foster parents. Two more chicks successfully hatched on July 20 and 25, this time to the parents who laid the eggs. We are so proud to have produced these three chicks, two males and one female, after years of patience and hard work.



## Masai Giraffe

On February 7, 2022, we welcomed a new baby female Masai giraffe named Luna. Luna is the third calf for mother, Sunshine, and the fourth calf sired by father, Miguu. On October 26, Luna was loaded on a specially-designed giraffe transport and moved to the Ellen Trout Zoo in Lufkin, Texas, to fulfill a Masai Giraffe AZA Species Survival Plan® (SSP) breeding recommendation. Luna's parents have received a new breeding recommendation so we hope to welcome another young giraffe sometime in the future.

## Radiated Tortoise

Radiated tortoises are a critically endangered chelonian from the southern part of Madagascar. Once one of the most abundant tortoises in the world, their numbers have been plummeting toward extinction due to habitat loss, poaching for food and the illegal pet trade. They are a very long-lived species that also takes a long time to mature. This makes decreases to their population even more critical.

We have two trios here at the Zoo; in fact, during the summer, we hatched two perfect radiated tortoises from our recommended trio. We hope this is a step in the right direction for these animals and that they are the first of many to hatch.



1965 | JUNE  
First Summer Camp



1970 | APRIL  
Opening of the Education Center (Auditorium)



1975 | JANUARY  
Zoomobile Program Begins



1980 | OCTOBER  
Elephant Habitat Opens



1987 | OCTOBER  
Children's Zoo Launches



1990 | DECEMBER  
Baboon Kingdom Opens





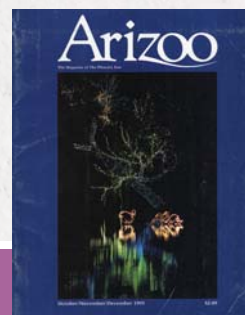
## Chacoan Peccary

In September, the Zoo welcomed three young Chacoan peccaries (also known as "tagua") born to dad, Cheerio, and two moms, Pebbles and Trix, through SSP breeding recommendations. The two females arrived from San Diego and were introduced to our tagua herd earlier in the year. These are the first births of this species at the Phoenix Zoo since 2014 and mark our return to active participation in breeding per SSP recommendations. The Zoo has been involved with Chacoan peccary conservation through our support of Proyecto Tagua in Paraguay and served as the initial location for the first population of Chacoan peccaries outside of Paraguay in 1996. This first group of tagua reproduced readily and eventually animals were transferred to other North American and European zoos. The Phoenix Zoo has continued to be involved in Proyecto Tagua through financial contributions and our veterinary staff have traveled to Paraguay to assist with health evaluations and ongoing conservation.



## Bornean Orangutan

Jiwa, an eight-year-old Bornean orangutan born at the Zoo, was transferred to Zoo Miami following an SSP recommendation to be a companion and future breeding match for Bella (also an eight-year-old). While we said farewell to Jiwa, we welcomed Wgasa, a 16-year-old Bornean orangutan, in April of 2022. Wgasa came to Phoenix from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo as a companion for Rayma, the Zoo's 17-year-old orangutan. All the moves and introductions went very smoothly and both pairs continue to get along very well.

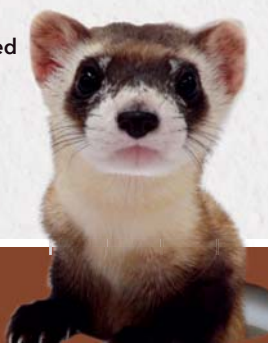


## Lady Ross' Turaco

Otto, our male Lady Ross' Turaco, has been at the Phoenix Zoo since 2004. While he's had several female mates throughout the years, he had not reproduced until this year. In 2021, we acquired a new female named Leela from the Fresno Chaffee Zoo based on an SSP breeding recommendation. When Leela and Otto were introduced, Otto was instantly smitten and began trying to offer her food. After a couple of months, the new love birds laid their first eggs. They had some hiccups when it came to incubating but our bird staff monitored them closely and made small adjustments to their nest site. In October, they successfully hatched and reared two chicks, marking the first time this species was produced at the Phoenix Zoo! The two chicks are doing fantastic and settling into their home on the Africa Trail.



1992 | JANUARY  
First Black-footed  
Ferret Facility  
Opens



1992 | DECEMBER  
First Zoolights

1994 | JULY  
Feel the  
Difference  
Exhibit  
Opens

1995 | SEPTEMBER  
Construction Completed  
on Stone House Pavilion



1996 | AUGUST  
First Zoo in North America to Import/House  
the Endangered Chacoan Peccary



1997 | JANUARY  
Forest of Uco Opens





## Veterinary Team Continues to Grow

With the ongoing leadership of Dr. Gary West, Senior Vice President of Animal Health and Living Collections, the veterinary staff has undergone some changes as it continues to take care of the animal health needs at the Phoenix Zoo, as well as being involved in conservation efforts supported by the Zoo. The veterinary team often works behind the scenes, but they are an integral part in supporting our animals' health and wellbeing in conjunction with the amazing animal care team.

Dr. Margarita Woc Colburn is the new Director of Veterinary Services. She was previously the Associate Veterinarian at Nashville Zoo and prior to that had completed her Zoological and Medicine residency at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park. She continues her work with the Cheetah Conservation Fund helping to save cheetahs from the illegal wildlife trade as well as being a veterinary advisor for giant anteaters and southern tamandua.

Dr. Megan Freeman is the new Staff Veterinarian and was formerly a post-graduate veterinary intern at the Zoo. She is a graduate of the Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and completed her zoological and exotic medicine

internship at the Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine prior to coming to Phoenix. She is an exceptional clinician and her enthusiasm is an asset to the team.

Hollie Chiles, Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT), continues to be our dedicated hospital manager. She brings her extensive knowledge of zoological medicine from working at the University of Florida and at the Zoo. She has been invaluable in helping to keep the hospital running as new members join the team.

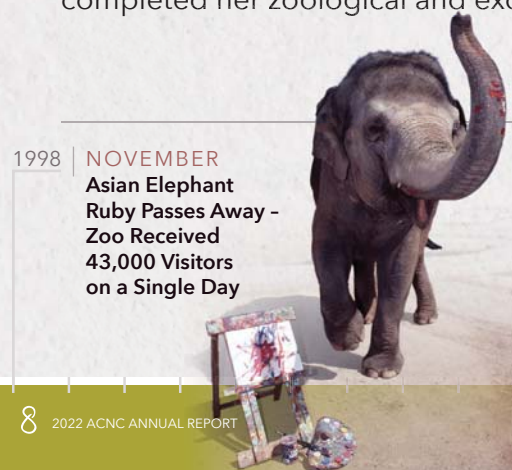
Erin Wooden, CVT, is a veterinary technician extraordinaire. Erin comes from the Chicago area, working at a private small animal practice for 15 years prior to joining the Zoo family in January of 2022.

Kristin Castro, CVT, is another fabulous veterinary technician. Prior to joining the Zoo in August, she worked at the UC Davis Companion/ Exotic Service for almost three years.

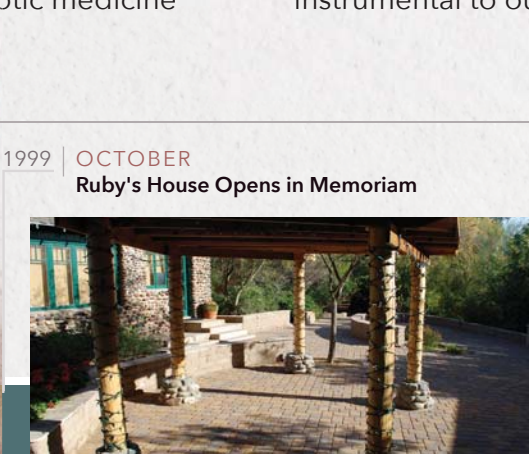
Brittnye Mistero is the new hospital keeper. Prior to joining the veterinary team, Brittnye was a senior keeper for our bird team. Her zookeeping experience and cheerful personality are instrumental to our growing team.

## Lowland Tapir Conservation in Paraguay

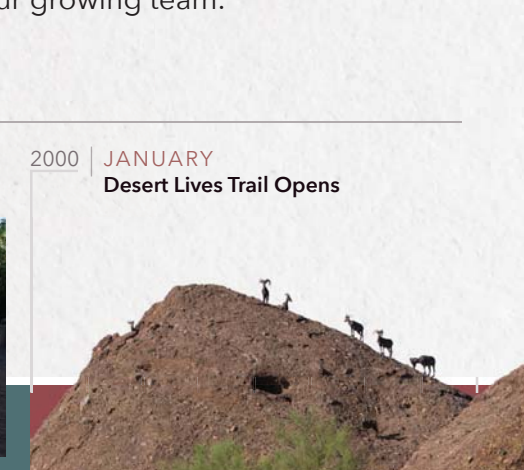
The Phoenix Zoo has been supporting Proyecto Tapir, a project that is working to investigate the movement and health status of wild lowland tapir in a rapidly developing area around the dry Chaco, for the past several years. This year, Dr. Megan Freeman spent two weeks in October in the Chaco Forest tracking lowland tapir using GPS technology, and anesthetizing wild lowland tapirs to assess their health, collect diagnostic samples and place radio collars on them to help researchers determine home ranges and land usage. During her time there, they were only able to anesthetize one adult male lowland tapir due to the elusive nature of this species. To track the lowland tapir, the team uses a combination of GPS and telemetry as well as camera traps, observation of tracks and sightings in the field. This project is still in its infancy, however, it has obtained valuable information on land usage by the lowland tapirs that will help to better create conservation strategies to help this species in the wild.



1998 | **NOVEMBER**  
Asian Elephant Ruby Passes Away - Zoo Received 43,000 Visitors on a Single Day



1999 | **OCTOBER**  
Ruby's House Opens in Memoriam



2000 | **JANUARY**  
Desert Lives Trail Opens



2001 | **APRIL**  
Launch of Leapin' Lagoon



2003 | **SEPTEMBER**  
AZA Significant Achievement Award for Mexican Wolf Recovery



2004 | **NOVEMBER**  
Monkey Village Opens



## COVID-19 Vaccines to Zoo Animals

Sars-CoV-2 has caused illness and deaths not only in people but also in other species such as big cats, non-human primates, otters, hyenas, mink and others around the world. Zoetis, a U.S.-based pharmaceutical company, developed a COVID-19 vaccine intended for use in animals. The vaccine uses a synthetic version of the SARS-CoV-2 spike

protein and it is administered in two doses, three weeks apart. The Phoenix Zoo was among one of the initial zoos to vaccinate susceptible species in our collection. A total of 60 animals were vaccinated by our veterinary and living collection teams. We are planning on boosting highly-susceptible species in the coming months.



2004 | DECEMBER  
Tropical Flights Walkthrough Opens



2006 | NOVEMBER  
Stingray Bay Opens to Guests

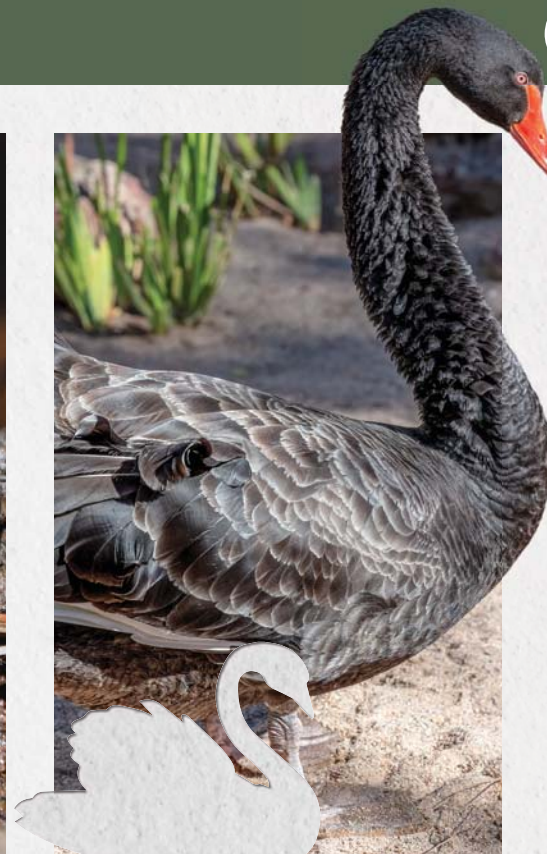


2007 | APRIL  
Conservation Center Launches



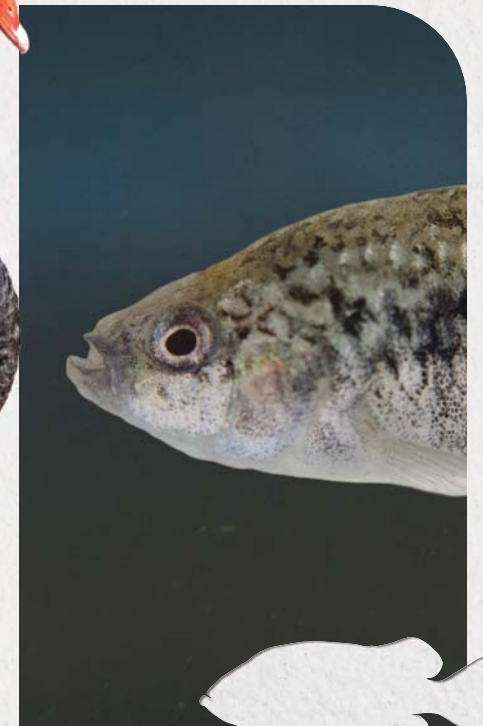
amphibians

21 species | ~1,300 individuals\*



birds

113 species | 459 individuals



fish

11 species | ~7,600 individuals\*



invertebrates

32 species | ~16,000 individuals\*



mammals

80 species | 349 individuals



reptiles

115 species | 403 individuals

\*Some managed as groups including ~15,000 Huachuca springsnails (invertebrates), ~6,505 Gila topminnow and ~910 desert pupfish (fish), and ~1,250 Chiricahua leopard frogs (amphibians) and others.



## Conservation Center Baby Boom

2022 was a banner year for imperiled native species births and hatchings at our Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Conservation Center. We celebrated our best breeding season ever for threatened narrow-headed gartersnakes, with 40 neonates born across four litters. We also had another great year for black-footed ferret births, welcoming 21 kits. All six pairs of cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls at the Zoo had successful fledglings and continue to thrive. All of these births and hatchings are part of conservation and research programs carefully managed in collaboration with state, federal and non-profit organization partners.



## Good Luck, Everyone!

2022 was a great year for Arizona-native animal releases. Seven black-footed ferrets, 228 Chiricahua leopard frogs, 400 Huachuca springsnails, four cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls and 25 narrow-headed gartersnakes raised at the Phoenix Zoo were released to the wild. The snake release was the largest-ever single release of narrow-headed gartersnakes. Three ferret kits from the Zoo were released in Meeteetse, Wyoming, where the black-footed ferret was rediscovered in 1981 after it was thought to be extinct. We're proud to contribute to native species recovery by providing animals for release and helping our partners monitor their success in the wild.



Photo: AZGFD



Photo: USFWS

## Advancing the Science of Animal Care and Conservation

The Phoenix Zoo proudly supports scientists across our staff conducting research to better understand the animals in our care and conserve wildlife. In 2022, our staff authored or co-authored 14 scientific publications. These publications characterized the reproductive biology of endangered species in our care, described rare health conditions observed by our veterinarians,

investigated the prevalence of disease in endangered wild animal populations and much more. Fun fact from one study: If a snake eats a seed-eating rodent, the seeds inside the prey animal can pass through the snake's gut and germinate where they're eliminated. This means that snakes may be helpful seed dispersers!

## Zoo Staff in the Field

As part of our jaguar corridor research initiative, our Field Conservation Research team deployed a network of gunshot detection equipment in the Costa Rican rainforest to reduce illegal hunting of jaguar in parks and preserves. Partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this project includes support for

community education and forest restoration. Our ultimate goal is to apply the lessons learned in Costa Rica in other regions where hunting is a threat to wildlife conservation. In addition, Zoo staff from multiple departments participated in field conservation projects in Fiji, Colombia and throughout Arizona in 2022.



2007 | DECEMBER  
Zoo Volunteers Record a Record  
32,000 Hours of Service



2008 | SEPTEMBER  
Yakulla Caverns Opens



2008 | OCTOBER  
Conservation  
Organization of  
the Year Award  
from Arizona  
Game & Fish  
Department





## Learning & Engagement



## Learning & Engagement Programs Audiences Return

After a couple of tough years, guests are eagerly returning for programs, events and tours. Camp Zoo welcomed nearly 1,000 kids across eight summer weeks and we launched our first full season of Night Camps since 2019. We also began offering a full schedule of Outreach programs for the first time since 2020, reaching both online and in-person audiences. This year's Teen Career Conference and Conservation Science Night events were well attended and well received, furthering our goal of

helping build the next generation of conservation stewards in our community. For our first Homeschool Day event, 300 participants joined us for activities showcasing how the Zoo can support their families' learning. Backstage Adventure tours are fan favorites and Guided Tours designed for schools and other groups are back. We even had our first bachelorette party tour this fall. As staff noted, "There's a first time for everything!" The bride and her friends had a great time.



## Welcoming Everyone

The Zoo is committed to being inclusive and welcoming to everyone. We've reviewed and expanded our Community Connections program to provide greater access to underreached groups and have brought back our Special Needs programs. Building on the success of our first Sensory Friendly ZooLights in 2021, we offered

two sensory-friendly nights for the 2022 season. In addition, we designated sensory-friendly hours on the Dinosaurs in the Desert trail on the 9th of each month during the run of the dino experience. Sounds and motion were turned off on the trail to provide a more relaxed experience for guests with sensory sensitivities.



2010 | FEBRUARY  
Voted Best of the Best in  
Entertainment by Ranking Arizona

# RANKING

*The Best of Arizona Business*

# ARIZONA

2010 | APRIL  
First Zoo in the World With 10,000  
Twitter Followers

2010 | AUGUST  
10,000th Chiricahua  
Leopard frog Raised  
and Released Back  
to the Wild





## Events



### Dinosaurs in the Desert

Making their “Comeback Tour” after a five-year hiatus was one of the Zoo’s most popular attractions of all-time: Dinosaurs in the Desert. And this time, they brought friends! Along with the returning Tyrannosaurs rex, all-new creatures included Giganotosaurus, saber-toothed cat, sea scorpion, terror bird and many more. Guests enjoyed an interactive fossil dig, a dino-themed photo-op, customized dinosaur gear and educational activities. Over 200,000 individuals embarked on this self-guided prehistoric tour in 2022.



### Dino Trick or Treat

This first-time event was capped at 2,000 attendees per evening and sold out every night. This event had 10 candy stations, three game stations and various other attractions that spread across the Africa Trail loop and Dino Trail.

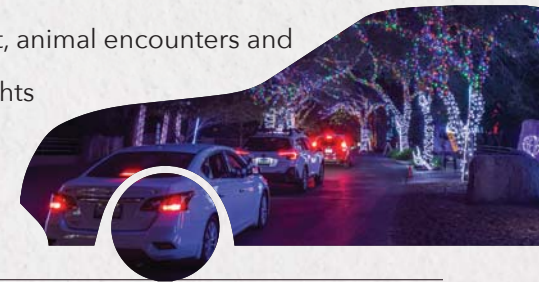
### Día del Niño

Día del Niño is always one of the Zoo's most popular public events. With over 7,700 guests in attendance, the Zoo located activities with a more thoughtful approach to limit crowding. To celebrate Hispanic culture, we hosted local mariachi and ballet folklorico performers and bilingual Safari Cruiser rides.



### Wildlights for Wildlife, A Charity Drive

Our annual drive-thru fundraiser featured food trucks, entertainment, animal encounters and a customized ZooLights experience for over 100 vehicles.



### Zoo Move & Groove 5K

Zoo Move & Groove 5K was hosted in the evening for the first time ever and included a run through ZooLights as well as ZooLights entry after the race. The event saw nearly 2,000 participants, which surpassed the previous year’s total of more than 1,700.

### ZooLights

“Adventure Everywhere” described the new immersive experiences that were added to the event this year featuring a brand-new Lake Lights Show that included the largest floating tree in North America (over 50 feet tall!). Additional improvements included Polar Park with Santa, glowing swings and s’mores pits for family-use. The Forest of Uco was newly remodeled and showed off vibrant colors that paired nicely with colorful Colombian-inspired lanterns and flags.



2011 | **APRIL**  
Orang-Hutan:  
“People of the Forest” Debuts



2011 | **JUNE**  
400th Black-footed  
Ferret Kit Born



2011 | **AUGUST**  
First Special Needs Summer Camp





# Membership



## Exclusive Member Preview of Dinosaurs in the Desert

Just over 6,000 members came out to enjoy their exclusive preview of the return of Dinosaurs in the Desert on October 1 & 2!

Members enjoyed a pre-historic after party with face painting, dinosaur-themed crafts and activities, dinosaur

fossils and dig site, photo ops with the dinos and the Desert Raptors motor pool along with a “Dapper Dino” contest for the person or family who wore their best dino gear. The winners won a behind-the-scenes tour with our greater one-horned rhinoceros, Chutti!

## ScooterPals

In partnership with our stroller, wheelchair and ECV provider, SAFEMARK/ScooterBug, we launched a whole new species of mobile entertainment, ScooterPals Fur-Wheelers!

ScooterPals offer a fun and flexible way to experience the Zoo. Guests can choose Ponce the lion, Nyx the leopard, Sarge the rhino, Kozee the bear or Reya the giraffe and rent it conveniently from their mobile phones

for just a few minutes or several hours. The ScooterPals also have geofencing technology that keeps riders on the approved pathways at proper speeds making it a safe and enjoyable experience for the riders, fellow guests and our animals.

Since opening on September 11, nearly 5,700 guests have enjoyed riding a Pal and have generated just over \$154,828 in gross revenue for the Zoo.



## Supporters & Loyal Members

The dedication and support of our members helps us continue our commitment to conservation and serving our community.



2012 | NOVEMBER  
Entry Oasis Opens



2013 | JANUARY  
Andean Bear Cub  
Luka Born



2013 | JULY  
Royal Society for Conservation of  
Nature MOU Signed



2014 | JANUARY  
2013 Partners  
in Conservation  
Award from  
the U.S.  
Department  
of the Interior



2014 | OCTOBER  
Handprints  
in Glass  
Donor Wall  
Debuts



2014 | NOVEMBER  
Arizona Zoological Society Changed to  
Arizona Center for Nature Conservation





# Improvement Projects

## Gift Shop Remodel and Expansion

The Zoo's gift shop is bigger and better than ever! Through an eight-month remodel and expansion project performed in collaboration with our retail partner Event Network, the store has been transformed into the new Plaza Marketplace! Design elements were inspired by the surrounding Valley and include native cacti and gabion rock. The freshness of the new space is highlighted by

sustainably-sourced materials and fixtures that reflect the vibrancy and natural beauty of the southwest region. The store also features an expanded selection of locally, ethically, and sustainably-sourced products created by Phoenix's local artisans and craftspeople - a reflection of the Zoo's commitment to sustainability.



## Africa Trail

Work continues on the Africa Trail expansion. New habitats for lion, hyena, Amur leopard and meerkats are being built. There will also be new restrooms. Guests will be able to walk across a boardwalk that goes over the road to a viewing tower to look into the west exhibit yard. Habitats and buildings will be themed with colorful shade cloths and thematic painting.

## Small Amphitheater

The less-utilized amphitheater across from the Pavilion was remodeled to make it more functional. New pavers and flagstone were added for seating. The old backstage area was removed and reconfigured to allow more open stage area. Overhead lighting will allow for improved nighttime use and as a wedding ceremony venue.

## Former 4D Theater Site

The vacated 4D theater site was modified to become a multi-purpose area. The concrete stairs and railings were removed and the area was leveled out. Additional pavers and concrete give this area more useable space.

## Wild Side Gallery

A building that has had many different uses over the years was transformed into an art gallery. The outside area also experienced upgrades with added pavers, amenities, remodeled restrooms and a refresh of the small educational amphitheater in the area.

## Stone House Pavilion Restrooms

The Pavilion restrooms received a remodel from their original look. The restrooms received new floor and wall tile, lighting, plumbing fixtures, countertops, partitions and a fresh coat of paint.

## Enchanted Forest

New stacked stone planters replaced old keystone planters to give the area a new look. The road was also widened to help allow better traffic flow. Pavers were added near the carousel to allow for a wider queue line that has transitioned off the public pathway.

## 2022 Sustainable Sales = Positive Impact!



2015 | **APRIL**  
Doornbos Volunteer and Administration Center Opens



2015 | **SEPTEMBER**  
Zoo Closed for Three Days due to Storm Damage that Toppled 70 Trees



2017 | **OCTOBER**  
Indoor Seating Available Inside Savanna Grill



2018 | **SEPTEMBER**  
First Art Exhibit Inside Savanna Grill (Project Holocene)



2019 | **JANUARY**  
Thunderbird Charities Equine Facility Center Opens to the Public



2019 | **OCTOBER**  
Grand Opening of the Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater





# Improvement Projects



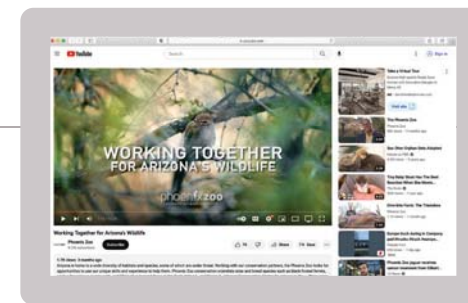
## Forest of Uco

As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, the Forest of Uco received a total makeover to highlight the Colombian region where those animals are from. Not only did the village receive all-new paint, but we added lighting, furniture and refreshed the artifacts with plans to recognize the original donors on the trail.



## BFFs in the News

The Zoo asked the public for help to name four of the 21 black-footed ferrets that were born at the Zoo. The winning names were Maple, Acacia, Cedar and Willow.



## Conservation Documentary Debuts

The Zoo debuted a mini documentary, "Working Together for Arizona's Wildlife," that is shown at the Zoo's Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater, on the Zoo's YouTube channel and on digital screens at the Johnson Conservation Center.

## The Phoenix Zoo was once again ranked #1!



# In the News

## Arizona Highways Feature

The Zoo's 60th anniversary was featured on the famed local show, "Arizona Highways." The Lost Birds exhibit by artist Todd McGrain also received acclaim by being featured on the program.



## Fernando Goes National

Footage of Fernando enjoying his 5th birthday was broadcast on CBS Morning News reaching cities all over the U.S.



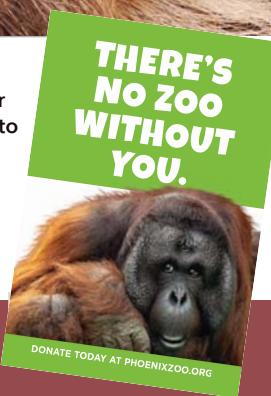
2019 | OCTOBER  
Elephant Habitat Expansion,  
Giants of the Asian Realm, Debuts



2019 | NOVEMBER  
Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl Breeds  
and Hatches for the First Time  
at the Zoo



2020 | MARCH  
Closed Zoo for  
161 days due to  
COVID-19  
(March - June  
July - September)







## Predator Passage Making its Debut in 2023

Construction continues at the Africa Trail making great strides toward opening our newest expansion, Predator Passage. Upon completion, the final element of The Pride Campaign, the \$8.5 million six-acre expansion will be the Zoo's largest capital project to date, adding an extraordinary immersive experience to Arizona's world class zoo. Guests will soon enjoy the up-close viewing of lions, hyenas, meerkats, warthogs, red river hogs, Ruppell's griffon vultures, a fennec fox and an Amur leopard.

## Giving Tuesday

2022 was the Zoo's most successful yet! With your help, we not only met, but exceeded, the \$10,000 challenge from Richard and Susan Burnham - raising more than \$45,000 in support of the Big Cats of Arizona project.

## Bidders for Critters

The first annual online summer auction was a huge success, generating more than \$113,000, making it the Zoo's most successful auction.

# Bidders for Critters

## A PURRfect Cause

More than \$4 million was raised to build a brand new habitat with ample space for mountain lions and jaguars fondly named Big Cats of Arizona. These intriguing desert cats are rarely seen in the wild, so providing viewing from different angles will improve visibility for guests. The habitats will also include educational messaging to explain the historical native ranges of the species and include a water feature for behavioral enrichment. This project will contain a centralized multi-use holding building, allowing flexible use by keepers while providing animal care. The 12-month construction period will begin in summer 2023. A special thank you to the Arizona Office of Tourism, JoEllen Doornbos, Art Pearce Family and the many other donors who have graciously donated to this project.



## Round Up for Big Cats of Arizona



Guests donating their extra change from their purchases helped make the new Big Cats of Arizona project a reality.

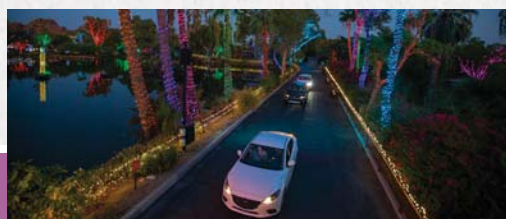
Through the efforts of the Guest and Member Services Ambassadors nearly \$40,000 was raised. An additional \$11,000 was contributed from the Zoo's retail partner Event Network's round up efforts.



2020 | MAY  
Cruise the Zoo Launches  
(43 Daytime Dates, 21,195 Vehicles)



2020 | NOVEMBER  
Cruise ZooLights  
(25 Nights, 10,410 Vehicles)



2020 | NOVEMBER  
First-Ever Wildlights for Wildlife



2020 | NOVEMBER  
First Release of Zoo-raised  
Huachuca Springsnails to the Wild



2021 | JULY  
Approved Hiring a Manager of Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion



2021 | OCTOBER  
Greater One-horned Rhinoceros Arrives -  
New Species to the Zoo





# Donor Relations

## Taking it to the Next Level - Philanthropic Memberships

The Guardian Conservation Society, the Zoo's premier philanthropic membership program, had its best year to date. Members are committed to animal conservation, education and a secure financial future for the Zoo. Guardian membership revenue generated \$921,000 from 377 total households. Support level membership revenue generated \$291,000 from 562 households. Thank you to the members and those who have contributed to our mission this year.

## Year-End Appeal Benefits Our Arizona Ringtail

Zoo members and our community stepped up and helped raise more than \$75,000 in less than 20 days, to double the size of the current habitat for our adorable ringtails, Slate and Buggy. The new space will provide this arboreal species ample room to climb and explore and will allow for separate areas when needed for breeding. This expanded habitat is essential in allowing the Zoo to continue contributing to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan® for this species. Thank you to Board member, Julie Gable and her husband Dieter, for kicking off our fundraising efforts with a \$10,000 challenge match.

## Leaving a Legacy

The Antler Society is a group of steadfast donors who invest in the future of the Phoenix Zoo through a planned gift of a will, charitable trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. These legacy gifts strengthen the Zoo's capacity to fulfill its mission. We gratefully acknowledge their legacy of support. The following are new society members:

Steve and Dawn Boeck

Judith Warnock and David Carroll

Keith McKenzie, *in memory of Regan M. Callister*

Fred and Wendy Lombardo

Pat Godbout

Ilona Guzman

Denise J. Osborne

Daniel A. Packard



2021 | OCTOBER  
First-Ever Release of Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owls to the Wild



2021 | NOVEMBER  
Parking Lot Expansion and Resurface Completed



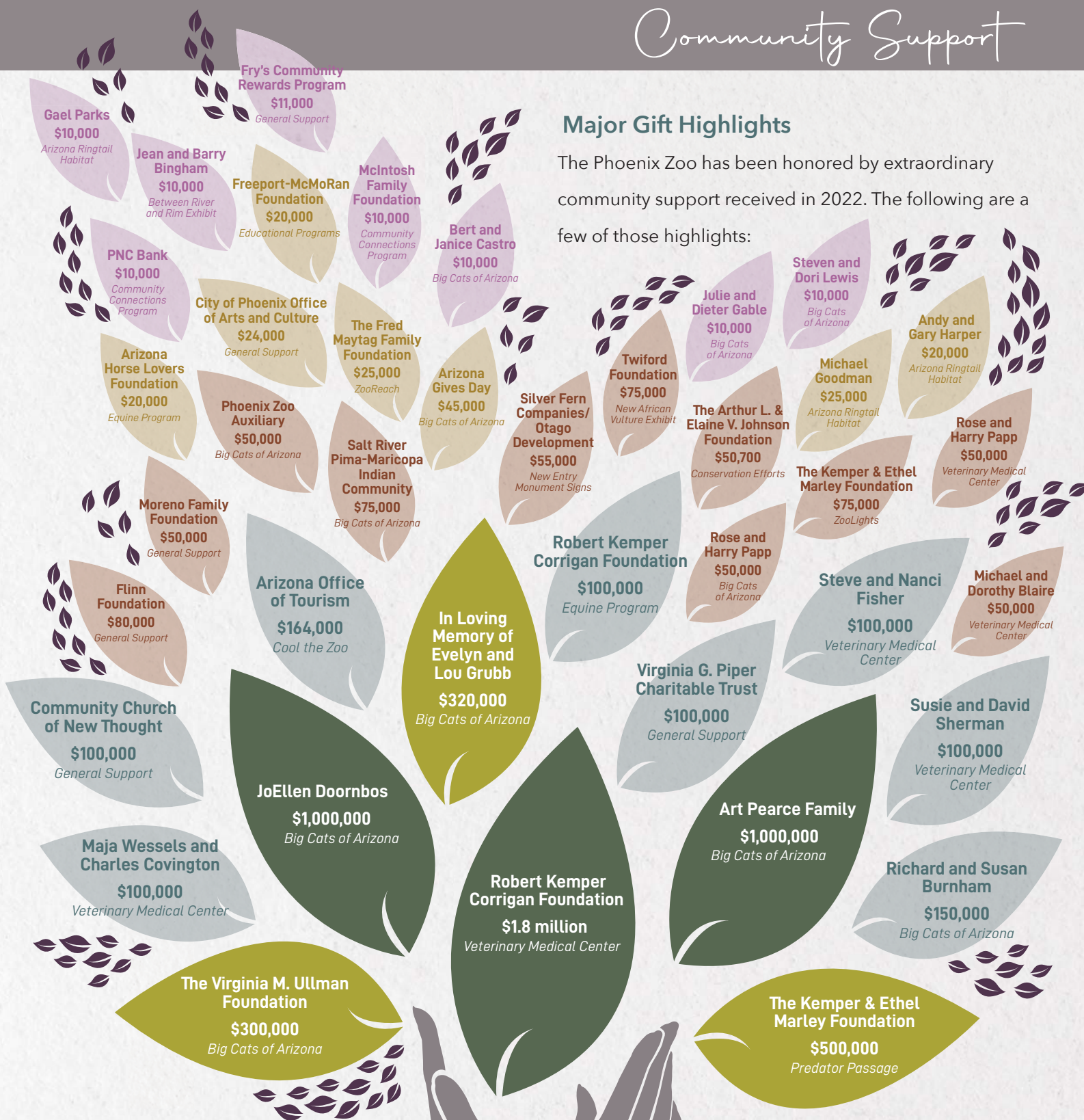
2021 | DECEMBER  
ZooLights 30th Season Surpasses 300,000 Guests for the First Time



# Community Support

## Major Gift Highlights

The Phoenix Zoo has been honored by extraordinary community support received in 2022. The following are a few of those highlights:



To all of these special donors who support the important work of the Phoenix Zoo, we are so grateful.

Thank you!



\$1,000,000 and Above

JoEllen Doornbos  
Art Pearce Family  
Robert Kemper Corrigan  
Foundation

\$250,000 to \$999,999

In Loving Memory of  
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SRP  
The Virginia M. Ullman Foundation

\$100,000 to \$249,999

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\$50,000 to \$99,999

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*\*Deceased*



All supporters as of December 31, 2022. The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation regrets the omission of any names. Please inform the Donor Relations Department at 602.914.4362 if this has occurred so our records can be updated.



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	For the year ended June 30, 2022	For the year ended June 30, 2021
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Admissions & Memberships	\$ 23,170,083	\$ 17,901,715
Educational Programs	439,261	138,936
Group Services	1,179,980	227,987
Food & Retail	4,659,944	3,225,579
Contributions**	16,294,766	8,523,415
Investment Income/(Loss)	(1,049,641)	2,531,387
Other	(30,278)	24,162
Total Support and Revenue	<b>\$ 44,664,115</b>	<b>\$ 32,573,181</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services	\$ 24,615,305	\$ 19,577,161
Management & General	3,133,689	2,312,302
Fundraising & Membership Development	3,200,882	2,581,954
Total Expenses	<b>\$ 30,949,876</b>	<b>\$ 24,471,417</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 13,714,239</b>	<b>\$ 8,101,764</b>
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	\$ 66,781,914	\$ 58,680,150
NET ASSETS - End of Year	<b>\$ 80,496,153</b>	<b>\$ 66,781,914</b>

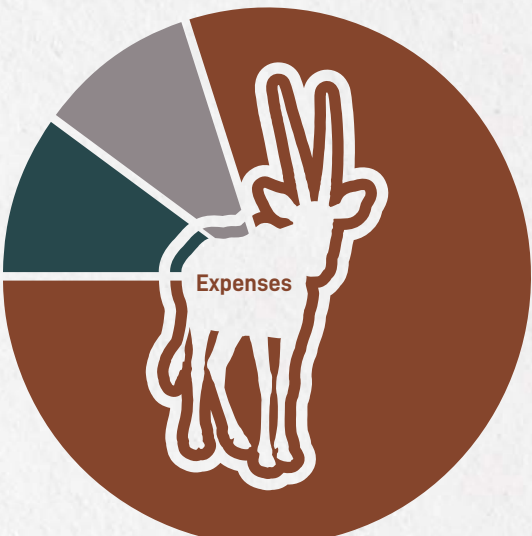
\*\* Includes revenue with donor restrictions prior to release for Capital Campaign and other projects of \$1,774,745 for 2022 and \$4,165,028 for 2021. For 2022, includes \$1,294,042 in proceeds from the CARES Act Employee Retention Credit and \$10,000,000 from the Shuttered Venues Operator's Grant and for 2021, includes \$1,802,248 in proceeds from CARES Act Employee Retention Credit.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 28,020,127	\$ 10,728,263
Contributions Receivable	151,182	994,225
Other Current Assets	1,646,506	1,242,597
Other Assets		
Investments	5,617,229	5,319,983
Endowments	9,782,403	10,463,965
Assets restricted for long-term purposes		
Cash	4,370,106	5,210,903
Contributions Receivable	1,061,643	711,635
Property & Equipment, net	33,148,726	32,541,436
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	5,164,049	5,992,123
Other Assets	24,371	19,371
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 88,986,342</b>	<b>\$ 73,224,501</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 3,799,889	\$ 2,630,978
Deferred Revenue	\$ 4,690,300	\$ 3,811,609
Long-term Debt	\$ -	\$ -
Total Liabilities	<b>\$ 8,490,189</b>	<b>\$ 6,442,587</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	\$ 62,528,033	\$ 48,506,228
With donor restrictions	17,968,120	18,275,686
Total Net Assets	<b>\$ 80,496,153</b>	<b>\$ 66,781,914</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 88,986,342</b>	<b>\$ 73,224,501</b>



Admissions & Memberships	49%
Contributions	35%
Educational Programs	1%
Group Services	3%
Food & Retail	10%
Investment Income & Other	-2%



Program Services	80%
Management & General	10%
Fundraising & Membership	10%
Development	10%

## ACNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

Maja Wessels Chair	Yvonne A. Betts Chair, Governance and Nominating	Linda Hayes Chair, Development
Stephen Fisher, DVM Past Board Chair	Larry A. Fink Secretary	Gabrielle Vitale Chair, Finance and Treasurer
	Julie Gable Chair, Outcomes	

### TRUSTEES

Cynthia Aguilar	Richard B. Burnham	Stephen M. Ochoa
Brian Baehr	JoEllen Doornbos	Karen Peters
Marty Barrett	Michael Johnson	Jim Pratt
Heidi Berger	Craig Krumwiede	Susie Sherman, DVM
Jean C. Bingham	Dawn Meidinger	Amber Vestal
Michael Blaire, DVM	John C. Norling	Kris Yamano

### TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Stephen Higgins	Harry A. Papp	Phil Petersen
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## ACNC EXECUTIVE TEAM

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro <i>President &amp; Chief Executive Officer</i>	Jeremy Bound <i>Director of Information Technology</i>
Bronwen Barnett <i>Executive Assistant</i>	Bill Davis <i>Director of Operations</i>
Ruth Allard <i>Senior Vice President of Conservation Science, Learning &amp; Engagement</i>	Carrie Flood <i>Director of Learning &amp; Engagement</i>
Lorraine Frias <i>Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement</i>	Jenifer Flowers <i>Director of Guest Services, Member Relations &amp; Retail</i>
Linda Hardwick <i>Vice President of Marketing, Communications &amp; Events</i>	Drew Foster <i>Director of Living Collections</i>
Dave Loncala <i>Vice President of Finance &amp; Accounting</i>	Tara Harris <i>Director of Conservation &amp; Science</i>
Christine Lowery-Nunez <i>Chief Administrative Officer</i>	Harry Jones <i>Director of Project Management &amp; Purchasing</i>
Bonnie Mendoza <i>Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer</i>	Christopher Ramos <i>Director of Events &amp; Group Sales</i>
Dr. Gary West, DVM <i>Senior Vice President of Animal Health and Living Collections</i>	Steve Roberson <i>Director of Park Services</i>
Joe Wilkes <i>Senior Vice President of Facilities and Construction</i>	Dr. Margarita Woc Colburn <i>Director of Veterinary Services</i>





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Phoenix, AZ 85008



### *Mission*

The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation advances the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats while providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.

ACCREDITED BY THE  
**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**