



20
23

ANNUAL REPORT

This year we focused on growth and expansion to further promote our mission to **inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.**

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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 11 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.

phoenixzoo.org



DEAR FRIENDS,

When I review our Annual Report each year, I am often amazed at how much has been accomplished in just 365 days! This year is no exception and the most obvious and exciting accomplishment in 2023 was the grand opening of Predator Passage, our largest single project in the Zoo’s history. This brightly colored, beautiful exhibit celebrates some of Africa’s most amazing animals. We’re excited to once again, have a pride of lions in a much-upgraded space, as well as hyenas and the critically endangered Amur leopard. Across from the predators, our existing group of Rüppell’s griffon vultures is receiving much more attention, as the new habitat provides a much closer view of these large and impressive birds. Predator Passage created new and much-needed habitats in a part of the Zoo that was previously undeveloped, and we hope it adds to your experience when you visit and gives you a greater appreciation for all of these species.

And speaking of species, this year saw the addition of 25 new species of animals at the Zoo. We are always looking to enhance the guest experience, while also finding ways to help with the conservation of animal species around the world. I hope you’ve already gotten to know our new red river hogs living where the tigers once lived and the Abyssinian ground hornbills now living in the old lion habitat. We’ll be continuing this trend in 2024 and already have plans for more – stay tuned!

We’ve broken ground for the new Big Cats of Arizona habitat on the Arizona Trail. This new home for our mountain lions and jaguars will provide them much more space and we’ll be bringing two new species to the Zoo to live in their current exhibits.

New exhibits are wonderful, but we are also working to make sure our existing habitats provide the best experience for both the animals and our guests; with this in mind, the very popular Stingray Bay received a renovation; resurfacing the pool, installing new shade structures and replacing the concrete with pavers.

FRONT COVER:

Kamara peers out into her new habitat on Predator Passage for the first time.

Our commitment to conservation remains our top priority and you’ll read about our efforts both here in Arizona and around the world in this Report. We continue to find partners like Huss Brewing Co., a local independent craft brewery who created their brewer’s Conservation Series benefiting our efforts to conserve Arizona species like the black-footed ferret and the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl.

We made national news for a record no one wanted to break when the Valley experienced 31 consecutive days with temperatures of 115 degrees or higher! As always, we took great care to insure the health and safety of our animals, our staff and volunteers, as well as our guests. During the hottest months, we closed the zoo daily at 11 a.m. for the first time ever and provided access to climate-controlled indoor spaces with plenty of water and shade or our animals.

We are back up to full staff for the first time since the pandemic. There are now over 1,000 people working and volunteering at the Phoenix Zoo and our turnover rate for full-time employees is at an all-time low of 1.8 percent. This is a statistic I am really proud of, because it shows that the Zoo is a great place to work. Our volunteers served over 33,000 hours equating to over \$700,000 in value and we certainly value their time and expertise and are grateful they have decided to share their talents with us.

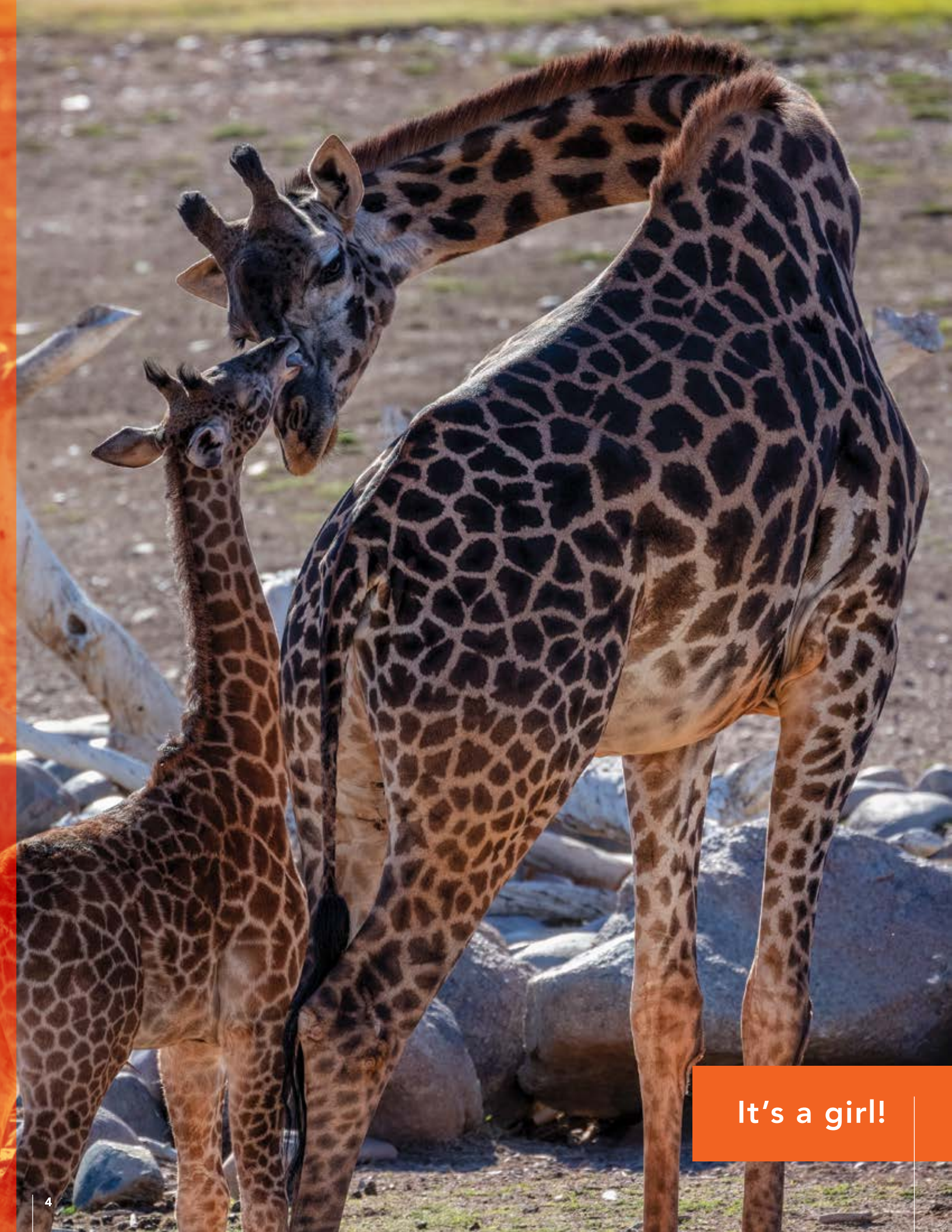
We remodeled our Gift Shop at the end of 2022, which now has a larger footprint and better accommodates wheelchairs and strollers. There continues to be a greater focus on sustainable products and packaging and 2023 broke all records with sales of \$3.6 million.

Our special events are doing great, with thousands of guests enjoying events like Roars & Pours and Spooky Safari. The Doornbos Discovery Wildlife Amphitheater, which officially opened just before Covid, saw its first sell-out crowd for a presentation by Pete McBride and Kevin Fedarko during the grand opening of River to Rim: Hiking Through the Grand Canyon, a photo exhibit in the Zoo’s new Wild Side Gallery. We also broke a record by hosting 505 birthday parties this year!

Overall, 2023 was a fantastic year for the Zoo. As always, we are grateful for all the support we receive from our sponsors, foundations, corporations and all of our individual members and donors from our community. We are proud to have so many supporters who understand our mission to inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. We have so much more coming in 2024 and we hope to see you all at the Zoo!

Sincerely,

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro
President and CEO,
Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo



It's a girl!

ANIMAL UPDATES

MASAI GIRAFFE

It's a girl! Sunshine gave birth in October to her third calf, fathered by Miguu. Aurora, whose name was voted on by our guests and won in a landslide, took her first steps on the African Savanna habitat on a crisp morning in November. We are excited to see her continue to explore her surroundings as she gets her long legs underneath her.

AFRICAN LIONS

African lions Kamara and Zuri joined us from Pueblo Zoo in Colorado and the five-year-old sisters quickly adjusted to their new home on Predator Passage. They share their habitat with Boboo, the male African lion, and are currently spending time getting to know each other. Their pairings are a breeding recommendation so we hope to welcome cubs in the near future.

RINGTAILS

On May 21, two ringtail kits were born at the Phoenix Zoo to first-time parents Slate and Buggy! Austin (male) and Sedona (female) were exciting additions as the first kits born at the Zoo in 20 years. The kits have developed well and are heading to other AZA facilities soon for future breeding.

AMUR LEOPARD

Jasper, the three-year-old Amur leopard, came to us from the Greenville Zoo in South Carolina to claim his spot on Predator Passage. Jasper is a member of a species with fewer than 100 individuals estimated to be currently living in the wild in southeast Russia and northern China. The Amur leopard is critically endangered and part of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, (AZA) Species Survival Program® (SSP). We are honored to be a part of the effort to protect him and his species.

GREEN ARACARIS

The Phoenix Zoo had two green aracari chicks hatch on May 8 and 9, one male and one female. These two represent the first successful breeding and fledging of this species at the Zoo since 2001.

SPOTTED HYENAS

Mother and daughter spotted hyenas, Tamu and Taziki, can be seen sunbathing and patrolling the fence line of their habitat. From Busch Gardens in Tampa, Tamu and Taziki embraced their move to Phoenix and wasted no time making their way outside to delight guests and explore their new habitat.

RED RIVER HOGS

Two red river hogs named Olive and Pugsley arrived from the Kansas City Zoo and are enjoying rooting around in the dirt in search of food. The mother and son were tentative upon arrival but have begun to express themselves and enjoy the weather as they spend time in their habitat.

SQUIRREL MONKEYS

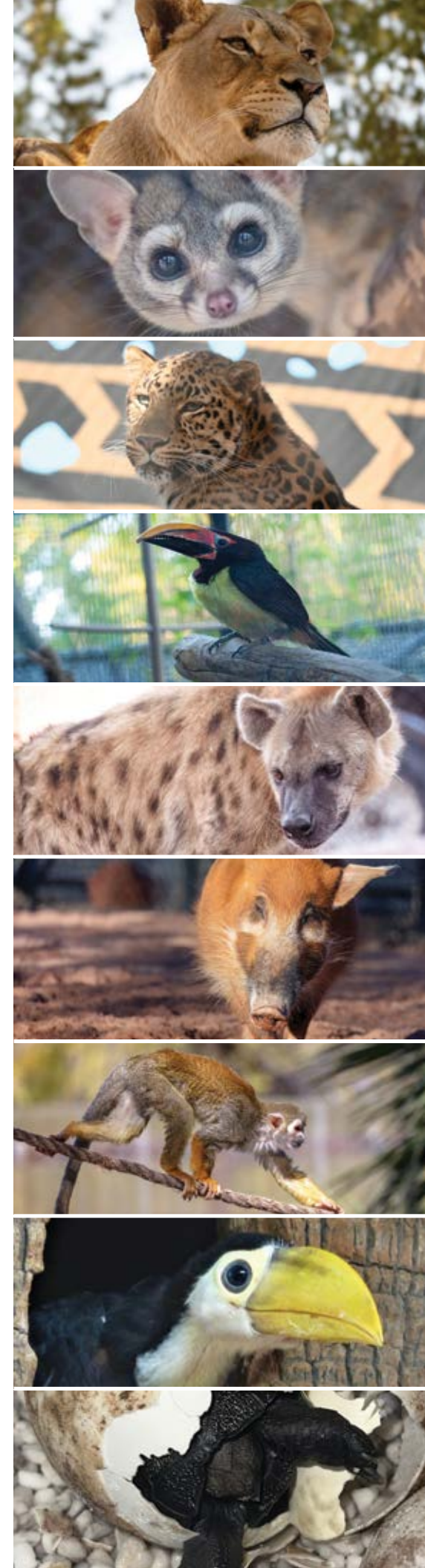
The Zoo welcomed 15 new common squirrel monkeys, including one male and 14 females from Oklahoma. These young, breeding-age monkeys have settled in, with babies that arrived soon after. Prior to their arrival, renovations were made in the Monkey Village habitat including higher barriers to accommodate the playful energy of the troop.

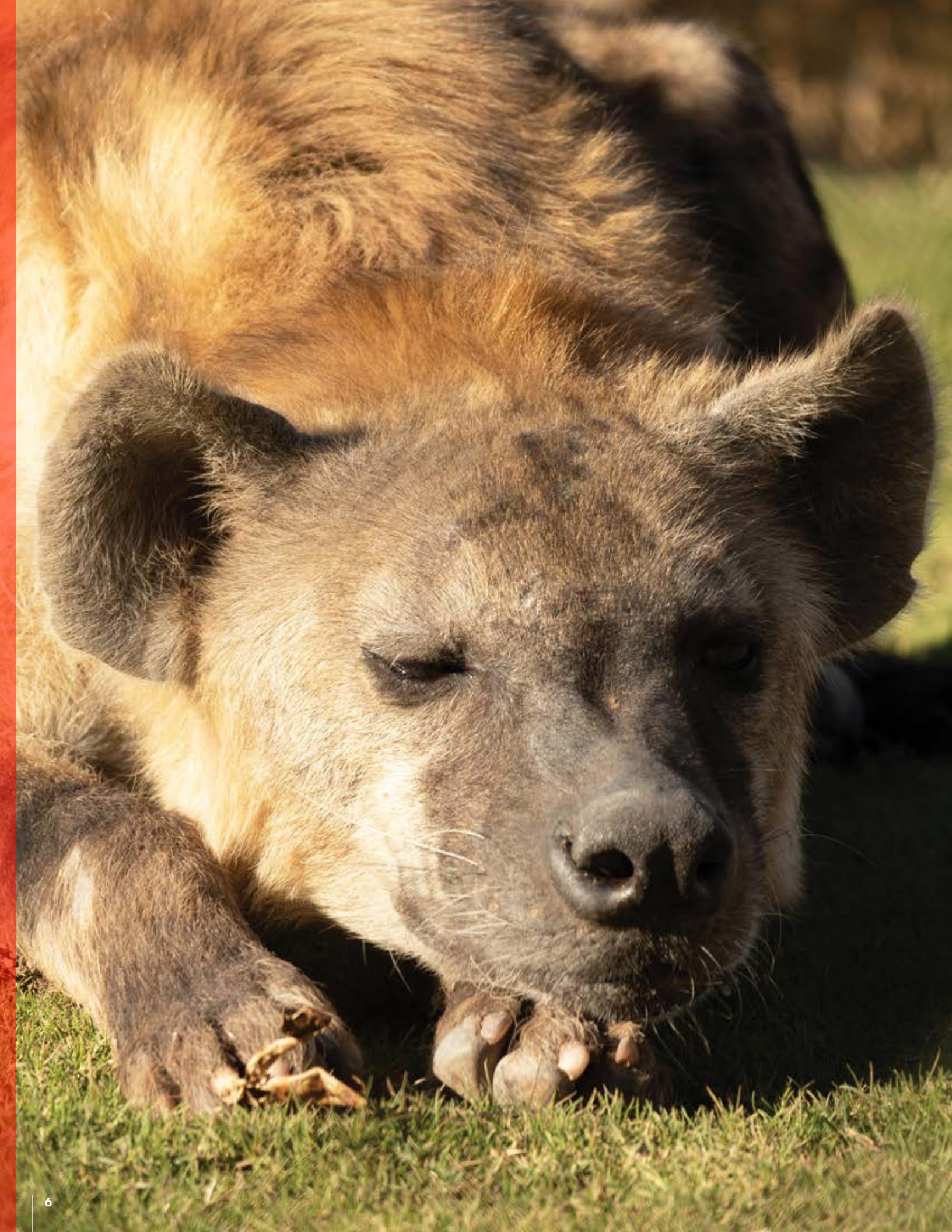
TOCO TOUCANS

The Zoo received a female toco toucan as a breeding companion for our male. Love was in the air, and they bred quickly, resulting in two male chicks that hatched in early July. Both chicks were healthy and fledged from the nest cavity in late August. As part of the SSP breeding recommendation, one chick is scheduled to go to the Columbus Zoo, and the other to the Honolulu Zoo.

CERRO AZUL GIANT TORTOISE

The 2023 hatching of this species of Galápagos tortoise was the first at an AZA facility since 1992, and the first ever at the Phoenix Zoo! The cerro azul giant tortoise is the smallest managed population of Galápagos giant tortoises with only 12 total animals, including the one hatched here this summer.





PREDATOR PASSAGE

There's More to Explore at Predator Passage! Traverse the six-acre expanded Africa Trail to get a glimpse of some of the world's top predators. Gaze upon African lions from the 20-foot-tall Predator Passage Tower and stroll along the beautifully constructed trail between habitats of the Amur leopard, fennec fox, red river hogs, spotted hyenas, Rüppell's griffon vultures and coming soon...meerkats! Predator Passage gets you closer than ever before to the plains and forests of Africa, as viewing windows and vantage points surround these unique and beautiful habitats.

When the Pride Campaign began raising funds in 2016, Predator Passage was still several years away from breaking ground, let alone welcoming guests. The extension marks the completion of the Pride Campaign, which also included the expansion of the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation Conservation Center, the construction of Galápagos and Aldabra tortoise habitats, the sand cat habitat, the Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater and Giants of the Asian Realm, an area used by both Indu, an Asian elephant and Chutti, a greater one-horned rhino.

Since the grand opening of Predator Passage in November, the new habitats have been full of life. Our three lions, Boboo, Kamara and Zuri can be seen together often as they begin to form a pride of their own here at the Zoo. Across the way, our Rüppell's griffon vultures have been laying eggs that we hope will contribute to the sustainability of the endangered species in AZA populations, as we work with Ramat Gan Safari in Israel on incredibly important vulture repopulation projects. Jasper, the Amur leopard, represents his especially vulnerable species here in Phoenix. We hope he can contribute as a member of the breeding population of his species in the future. Predator Passage provides not only a home for these animals but offers us a chance to contribute to species conservation. We are working hard to secure a future that includes all inhabitants of Predator Passage and the Zoo as a whole.





MEMBERSHIP

To celebrate the grand opening of Predator Passage, we held an exclusive member-only event at Desert Tents. Members enjoyed access to activities and experiences including coloring stations, readings of *Steve the Dung Beetle* by author Susan Stoltz and interactive stations with biofacts. The fun didn't stop there. Every guest to the Zoo during the Predator Passage grand opening also joined in the celebration by participating in an African drum circle with the Musical Instrument Museum. The festivities drew nearly 40,000 guests throughout the week and were an exciting way to honor all the hard work that went into preparing the exciting new feature of the Africa Trail. Members were also able to purchase a member-only Predator Passage t-shirt and received gifts of wildflower seeds to grow at home!



COLLECTION NUMBERS



INVERTEBRATES
38 SPECIES | ~16,000 INDIVIDUALS*



FISH
10 SPECIES | ~8,000 INDIVIDUALS*



AMPHIBIANS
23 SPECIES | 108 INDIVIDUALS



REPTILES
124 SPECIES | 372 INDIVIDUALS



BIRDS
118 SPECIES | 455 INDIVIDUALS



MAMMALS
84 SPECIES | 390 INDIVIDUALS

*Some managed as groups including ~11,000 Huachuca springsnails (invertebrates), ~8,000 Gila topminnow and desert pupfish (fish).

9,953
NEW MEMBERS
IN 2023



3,090
MEMBERSHIPS
PURCHASED
AS GIFTS



18,292
FAMILY PLUS
MEMBERS RODE THE
SAFARI CRUISER
FOR FREE



35%
INCREASE IN
HOUSEHOLDS
GIVING
PHILANTHROPICALLY





Black-footed ferret baby boom!

CONSERVATION

BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS RELEASED TO THE WILD

We welcomed 26 endangered black-footed ferret kits from six litters this breeding season. Twenty-one kits and 12 adult ferrets from the Zoo were flown by the Arizona Game and Fish Department to the National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center in Colorado for potential release to the wild, or to breed at other facilities. Roxy, one of the ferrets from the Zoo, was released with her kits at Southern Plains Land Trust in southeastern Colorado. We're hopeful they're doing well and will contribute to the wild population of ferrets in the coming years.



BIG NEWS FOR SMALL SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

Did you know the Zoo's Conservation team cares for an endangered plant? The tiny Huachuca water umbel is flourishing in the creek at the Zoo's Johnson Center. This is the first year we've seen the umbel flowering since 2018, which is an encouraging sign that the plants are healthy in their Zoo home. In addition to the umbel, tiny springsnail species are thriving at the Johnson Center. We released 2,000 Zoo-raised Huachuca springsnails to the wild in 2023 and are working on husbandry and management protocols for threatened San Bernardino springsnails as well. In mid-December we welcomed a new snail species, the Quitobaquito tryonia springsnail, known to be present in only one location in southern Arizona currently. Stay tuned for more news as they get settled into their new habitat at the Zoo.



SSSSUPER YEAR FOR SNAKES!

The Zoo celebrated the birth of 19 narrow-headed gartersnakes in 2023. Twelve of these were released to the wild in August, shortly after their birth. The remaining gartersnakes are doing well at the Johnson Center. We're thrilled to share that previously released Zoo-born snakes were observed in the field this year by a University of Arizona graduate student. This marks the first time we've had proof of successful overwintering, which is a great sign that the snakes from the Zoo are up to the challenges of life in the wild.

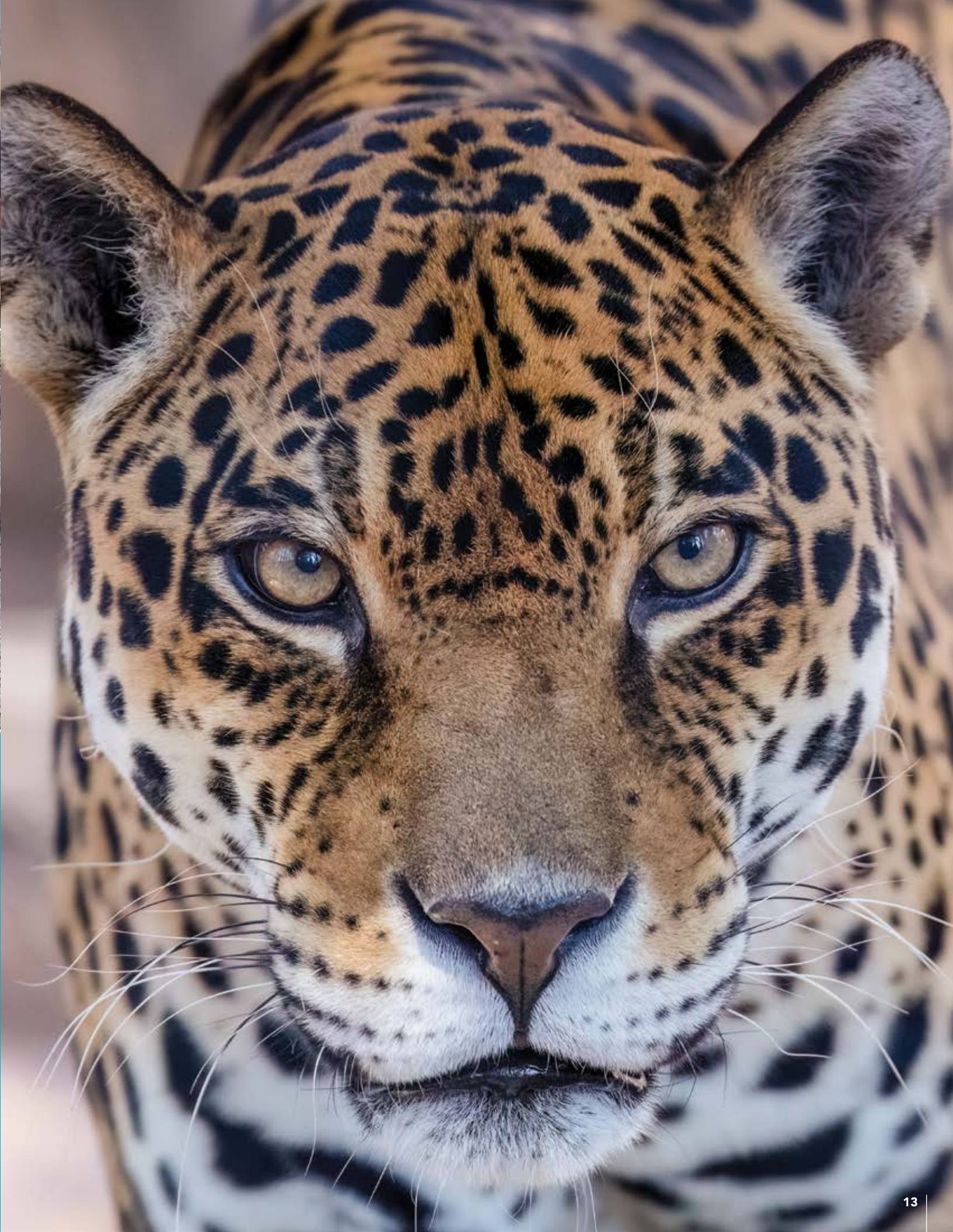
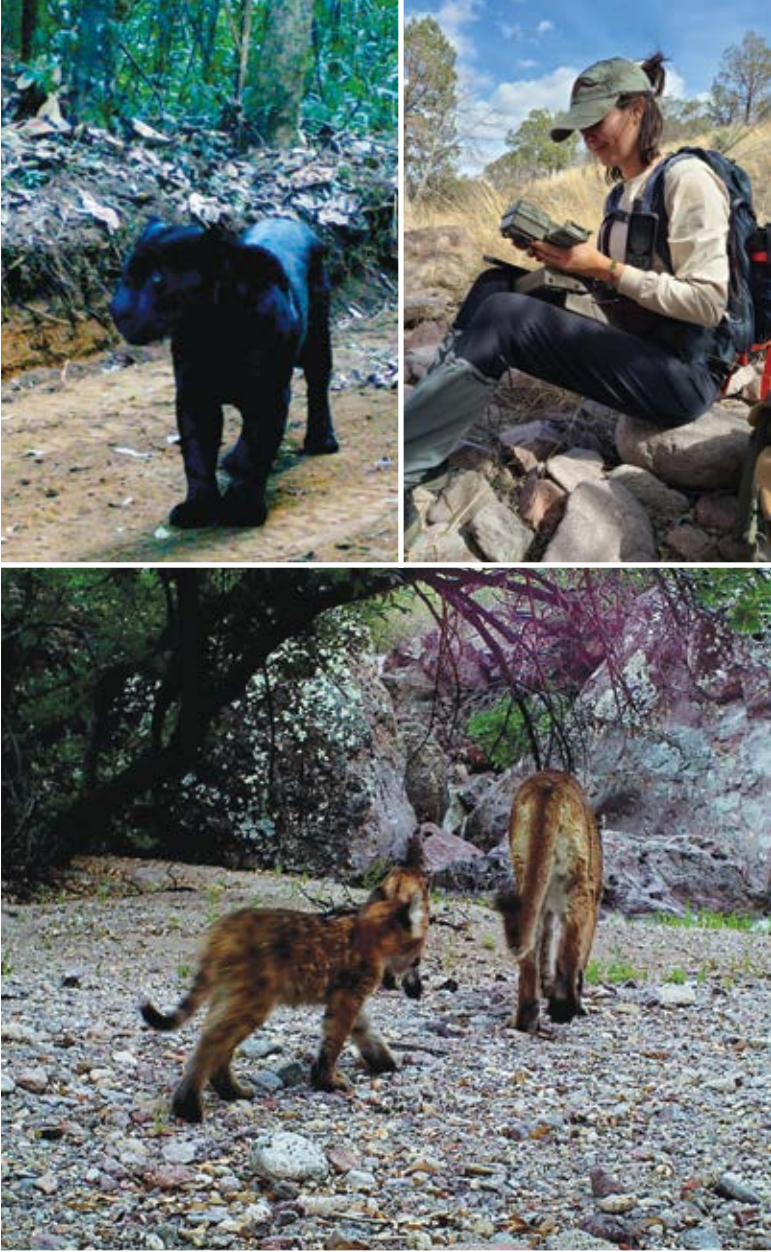


PATH OF THE JAGUAR

Work continues on our US Fish and Wildlife Service-funded Path of the Jaguar project in Costa Rica. We've sorted and analyzed nearly 625,000 photos and videos from wildlife camera-traps deployed in farms, forest fragments and intact forest patches. Together with our collaborators, we deployed 16 gunshot detection units to deter jaguar poaching and other poaching activity, and 10 biodiversity detection units to listen for rare three-wattled bellbirds in the region. Initial testing has been encouraging, though challenging. Our multi-national team continues its work in acoustic ecology, community-based conservation and education and economic livelihood project support.

BORDER CATS

The Zoo's Field Conservation Research team and ASU West partners launched a new border cats project in the Pajarito Mountains in southern Arizona, with support from the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation and Panthera's Small Cat Conservation Fund. Thirty cameras were deployed and collected, yielding nearly 17,000 videos over 81 days. Twenty different mammal species were recorded, although we did not capture images of ocelot or jaguar, which we were hoping to find. We're eager to get started on "Pajaritos 2.0" in the new year, as this was just the first study of its kind conducted in this region. We're interested in seeing whether species diversity changes seasonally in the region and look forward to continuing to work with ASU School of Life Sciences Undergraduate Research program students on this project.



HUSS COLLABORATION

Huss Brewing Co. has collaborated with the Phoenix Zoo on the cutest beer possibly ever created! Debuting with the first of three beers exclusive to the Zoo, this past fall we introduced the Black-footed Ferret IPA. Sales of the beer benefit the black-footed ferret, one of the most endangered mammals in North America. Alongside Huss, the Zoo plans to feature a new native species every four months that will complement the season and help champion the many conservation efforts of the Zoo. The second collaboration will benefit the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl. Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Lager will be a light, crisp and refreshing beer to enjoy as we welcome spring to the Valley.



VETERINARY UPDATES

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

Dr. Lassiter is the thirteenth Zoological Medicine intern to participate in our one-year clinical training program. This program is for graduate veterinarians seeking more clinical training in zoo and wildlife medicine and planning to make a career in this field. All of our previous interns are working in the zoo and wildlife medicine field and making important contributions to the care of wildlife!

BESS

Bess, one of our Bornean orangutans, has had some pelvic floor laxity since 2014, after giving birth to her son Jiwa, who is now at Zoo Miami. Over time, the pelvic floor muscles continued to weaken, which allowed tissues to partially prolapse. Alongside a consulting surgeon, Zoo vets conducted surgery to reduce this prolapsed tissue. Bess has done well and made a full recovery.

BOBOO

In preparation for African lion Boboo's move to his new Predator Passage habitat, he received a comprehensive physical examination and blood was drawn for laboratory analysis. The process of anesthetizing a lion is always a challenge but his exam went well and he made a good recovery. He is now enjoying his new home and can be seen out in his habitat alongside new lionesses Zuri and Kamara.





The Phoenix Zoo is meeting our vision of creating an environmentally literate community.

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

CAMPS

2023 was our busiest Night Camp since 2019. Camp Zoo and Winter Camp both sold out and we piloted two new camps as well, totaling over 2,500 campers in 2023!

FIELD TRIPS

Thanks to generous support from PNC Bank, we welcomed 200 foster children and their family members to spend a Friday at the Zoo, including a boxed lunch, cruiser rides and a meet and greet with some of our ambassador animals. We also hosted the annual meeting for the Arizona Department of Education’s Migrant Education Program. Ninety parents, representatives from Access ASU, and district coordinators from around the state met at the Zoo to learn about how the Phoenix Zoo can support learning for them and their families. In January, 2024, 71 students in this program enjoyed a field trip to the Zoo with STEM activities and special experiences.

PAW

We completed our third and most anticipated project-based classroom curriculum, Project Arizona Wildlife (PAW). Like Project Orangutan and BioConnect, PAW comes with all the tools a teacher needs to facilitate inquiry-based STEM learning in the classroom with support from Phoenix Zoo educators. To engage teachers further, we offered professional development workshops to familiarize teachers with the content of the curriculum. Teacher feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the evaluation data shows that teachers are excited about facilitating the STEM units. These classroom curricula help us expand our reach by leveraging the power of teachers passionate about nature and conservation.

TRAILBLAZERS

This year we welcomed our inaugural Youth Advisory Council, the Trailblazers. This diverse group of young teens is advising us on the best ways to engage their peers, completing conservation service-learning projects and honing leadership skills.

NFL COLLABORATION

As part of community engagement for the Super Bowl in February, the Phoenix Zoo partnered with Force Blue and NFL Green on a trash clean up and invasive apple snail removal program along the Salt River. This large community volunteer event included former NFL players participating in clean-up efforts. Representatives of Learning and Engagement were on hand with information about our work with springsnails and an activity for kids to learn more about our native snails.

ENGAGE

Conservation Science Night saw over 100 attendees this year. We engaged audiences of all ages and abilities, allowing our talented scientists to connect and share their work comfortably with even the youngest attendees. Sixty percent of Conservation Science Night attendees reported that compared to before the event, they knew how to help native wildlife, meeting our vision of creating an environmentally literate community.





David, a spotted-necked otter, devours a fish-sicle on a hot summer day.

IN THE NEWS

IT'S HOT OUTSIDE

During the scorching summer of 2023, which brought record-breaking heat to Phoenix, including 55 days reaching temperatures over 110 degrees and a relentless stretch of 31 consecutive days of temperatures of 115 degrees or higher, the City garnered international attention. As The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, NBC Nightly News, CNN, The Associated Press, Reuters, Agence France-Presse and countless other national and local news outlets reached out, our teams showcased the innovative measures taken to ensure the well-being of the animals, staff and Zoo guests during the sweltering heat. Featured in news stories across the world, the Zoo's strategies of frequent cold showers, tasty blood-sicles, adjusted operating hours and around the clock access to temperature-controlled indoor spaces allowed our animals to find comfort in their habitats and escape the oppressive heat. Zoo guests were encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the Zoo as hours were adjusted to close earlier than ever before, at 11 a.m.

WORLD SERIES BET

In October the Arizona Diamondbacks made it to the World Series for a showdown with the Texas Rangers. We made a friendly wager; the losing Zoo would name a rattlesnake after the opposing team. Sadly, the Dbacks couldn't close it out, and we were forced to introduce the world to Ranger, a Western diamondback that lives on the Arizona Trail. While we wish the Dbacks had secured the win, it was a fun bet that garnered plenty of media attention and delighted many Texas Rangers fans on social media.



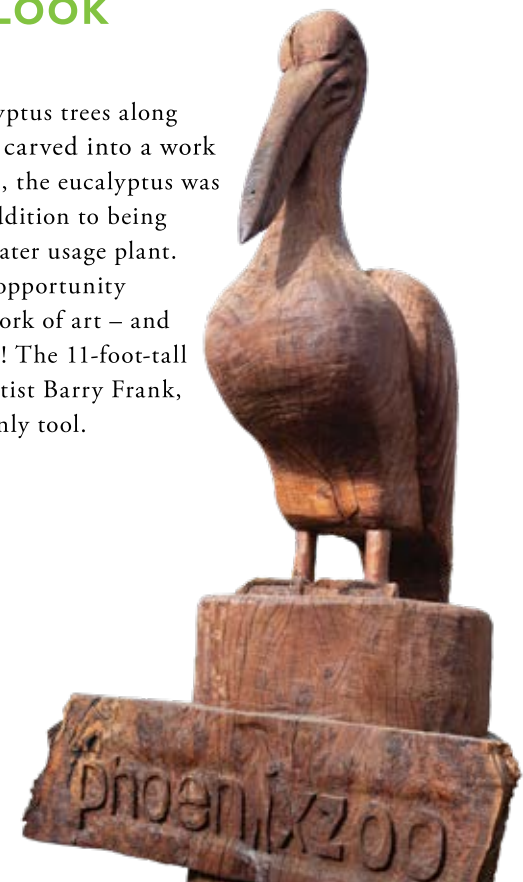
OFF-SITE CONSERVATION PLANS

Southern Arizona's *Green Valley News* keeps up to date on the latest progress of the Zoo's Sahuarita project for an off-site conservation facility slated in the future.



WOOD YOU LOOK AT THAT!

One of the largest eucalyptus trees along the main lake has been carved into a work of art. Though beautiful, the eucalyptus was posing a safety risk in addition to being a non-native and high-water usage plant. However, it gave us the opportunity to create an impactful work of art – and a unique photo spot, too! The 11-foot-tall pelican was carved by artist Barry Frank, with a chainsaw as his only tool.





AWARDS & ACCOLADES

2023 ACCREDITATION INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR

Phoenix Zoo President/CEO Bert Castro was recognized as Inspector of the Year in Operations by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Of Bert, the AZA stated, “He has volunteered as an accreditation inspector since 2000. Bert’s strengths as an inspector include his depth and breadth of knowledge, sense of empathy, and keen attention to detail.” Congratulations to Bert on this exciting recognition from the AZA!

RANKING ARIZONA/ AZ BIG MEDIA

The Zoo was once again voted #1 in Attractions: Zoos & Wildlife Parks by AZ Big Media. We have ranked in the magazine since 2001 and have consistently been #1 since 2012! Thank you to everyone who voted for us over the past 22 years, proving the Zoo is fun for all ages!

ARIZONA FORWARD

The Zoo was honored to receive the Award of Distinction from the Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards for our Parking Lots Restoration & Expansion Project. The Zoo submitted for this award in collaboration with the City of Phoenix. The new and refurbished parking lots were built with a focus on the environment and giving guests easier access to the Zoo, especially during our busiest months of the year and at events like ZooLights.

KIDS OUT AND ABOUT

The Zoo was excited to come out on top of Kids Out and About Top 20 Places to the Take Kids in Phoenix, voted on by local parents, grandparents and caregivers.



FLAMINGOS, ZEBRAS, AND ACCOUNTING – OH MY!

Phoenix Zoo COO/CFO Bonnie Mendoza was interviewed for ASU’s W.P. Carey Magazine as a distinguished alumni of the university.

PHILANTHROPY RECOGNITION

Congratulations to JoEllen Doornbos who received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals of the Greater Phoenix Area. In addition to her generous financial contributions, JoEllen has consistently volunteered her time and expertise to our organization. She is currently a member of the Zoo’s Board of Trustees, a member of the Development Committee, Governance & Nominating Committee, Veterinary Medical Center Campaign Cabinet and an active member of the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary. She has also held the leadership positions of Board Chair, Development Committee Chair, Auxiliary President and event chair for many of the Zoo’s fundraising events.



TRIPEXPERT

The Zoo was honored to receive the Expert’s Choice Award. The award is given to the world’s best hotels, restaurants and attractions who are consistently rated as outstanding by professional reviewers.



BEST OF PHOENIX

The Phoenix Zoo earned Best Family-Friendly Fun and Best Zoo in *New Times*’ 45th annual BEST OF PHOENIX® issue. These awards are voted on by readers.



WILD SIDE GALLERY

Since debuting on February 2, 2023, the Wild Side Gallery has showcased two art installations; Between River and Rim: Hiking Through the Grand Canyon and Inspired: Arizona Artists Celebrate the Natural World. Both installations captured the imagination of Zoo guests and provided the artists with the opportunity to display and sell pieces to a new and intrigued audience.

Phoenix Zoo President/CEO Bert Castro said of the Gallery, “Realizing the potential that this building had to be redesigned with a goal to inspire our guests through art, presented an opportunity we wanted to seize. We look forward to bringing a variety of artistic exhibits, interactive activities and learning opportunities for our guests to enjoy as they visit the Gallery and the Zoo.”

Since opening, the Wild Side Gallery has seen more than 10,000 guests and we are excited to welcome more artists to adorn the walls with pieces of artwork.





IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

WILD SIDE GALLERY PATIO & ENHANCEMENTS

Restoration efforts continued at the original 1970s building, now the Wild Side Gallery. Enhancements included unveiling the original windows, allowing natural light to illuminate the Gallery and providing a picturesque view of the Arizona Trail. Also, the introduction of patio areas enhances the versatility of the space, offering a charming setting for small gatherings, staff meetings and events.

SPACE FOR MORE!

A new 4,500-square-foot storage building was completed, facilitating space for Horticulture, Living Collections and Events teams. The flexible space provides a secure and weather-resistant storage solution for essential items.

COOL THE ZOO



The Phoenix Zoo is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$164,312 grant from the Arizona Office of Tourism's Visit Arizona Initiative (VAI) Outdoor Recreation Revitalization Grant program. The grant has facilitated the "Cool the Zoo" project, focusing on enhancing guest experience during the summer months. This initiative includes the installation of misting fans, shade structures and water bottle filling stations throughout the Zoo. Additionally, a Cool the Zoo marketing campaign is set to launch in the Spring of 2024, providing a comprehensive approach to ensure a more comfortable and enjoyable experience.

STINGRAY BAY REMODEL

Stingray Bay closed to the public on June 12, 2023, for a much-needed face lift. The stingrays were safely moved to a holding pool behind the scenes allowing the work to begin. The 12,000-gallon touch pool was resurfaced, new shade structures were erected, and the guest viewing areas were expanded and covered with pavers.

LIGHT TUNNEL

A new 200-foot-long immersive tunnel of lights was created for the 2023-24 season of ZooLights. The tunnel displayed a dazzling kaleidoscope of nearly 8,000 vibrant bulbs. Spanning 20 feet-wide and 16 feet-high, it was the shining star of the holiday light display offering the perfect backdrop for countless video and photo taking opportunities. The tunnel created unforgettable memories for ZooLights guests.

SAVANNA

Two shade structures were installed on the Savanna to provide shade to even our tallest residents. Renovation of the Savanna habitat continued with a moat clean-out, river rock removal, addition of new soil and grass and a new 10-foot-tall fence allowing the inclusion of new animals to the habitat in the near future.





EVENTS

WILDLIGHTS FOR WILDLIFE

Wildlights for Wildlife, a charity drive in support of the non-profit Phoenix Zoo, ushered in ZooLights with a sneak peek at the holiday light display. More than 100 cars drove through the illuminated wonderland after indulging in delicious cuisine from some of the Valley’s favorite food trucks. Guests enjoyed entertainment acts, animal encounters and even a mobile gift shop! Through sponsorships, vehicle reservations and a 50/50 raffle, nearly \$90,000 was raised.

SPOOKY SAFARI

We had a scary good time this year at the Zoo’s inaugural Halloween event, Spooky Safari! With more than 7,500 attendees, we saw ghosts and goblins of all kinds line Zoo paths in search of candy, facepainting, ghoulish games and creepy crafts.

DINOSAURS IN THE DESERT

Guests journeyed back in time to a world where colossal dinosaurs and other ancient beasts dominated the landscape. This self-guided experience was included in general admission to the Zoo and delighted guests along the Desert Lives Trail from October 2022 – April 2023. More than two dozen creatures were featured, including the Titanaboa, Allosaurus, Giganotosaurus and many more. The Beer Research Institute collaborated with the Zoo and created three unique specialty dino brews; Shredder, a Mexican lager, Tyrannosaurus Rex, an amber beer and Headbanger Haze, an IPA. The creative and eye-catching designs for the beer labels were crafted by renowned comic artist Jay Fotos, adding an artistic touch to the collaboration. Exclusive to the Phoenix Zoo, these dino brews offered guests a one-of-a-kind beverage experience.

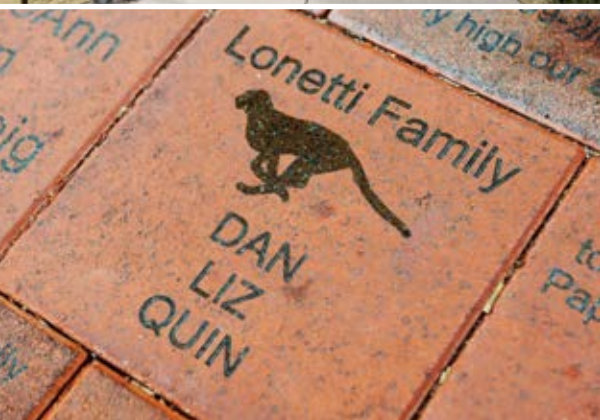
505 PARTIES

In 2023, the Phoenix Zoo achieved a remarkable milestone by hosting a record-setting 505 birthday parties within its enchanting grounds. This accomplishment speaks to the Zoo’s popularity as a unique and memorable celebration destination. Families had the opportunity to choose the perfect spot for their special occasions from several venue locations strategically placed around the Zoo, including Siamang Ramada, Tropical Flights, Neely Center and Millhouse. This all-inclusive experience ensures that every birthday party at the Phoenix Zoo is a truly memorable and enjoyable affair.

ROARS & POURS

Roars & Pours, touted as the Wildest Happy Hour in the Valley, drew nearly 6,500 guests in 2023 for an extraordinary after-hours experience at the Zoo. This exclusive 21 and over event allowed attendees to sip and stroll through the Zoo’s captivating surroundings, including animals in their habitats, while sampling a variety of beverages. The evening offered more than just drinks, as guests also had the opportunity to enjoy up-close animal encounters and presentations, adding a touch of wildlife wonder to the festivities. Roars & Pours provides a unique and child-free experience, creating a memorable blend of entertainment and relaxation for those seeking a distinctive way to enjoy the Phoenix Zoo after sunset.





COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BIG CATS OF ARIZONA

Ground has broken on the new Big Cats of Arizona habitat on the Arizona Trail. The over five million dollar expansion will provide new homes for the Zoo's jaguars and mountain lions. This expansion will increase the space for our jaguars by more than double their current habitats' size, and the mountain lions' new habitat will increase by approximately five times its current size!

COATI YOU WAITING FOR?

On Giving Tuesday, we launched our appeal for a new coati habitat. Long-time Zoo member and volunteer, Gael Parks, lead the way with a \$10,000 match as we raised money to upgrade the habitat of this iconic Arizona native mammal. The total amount raised on Giving Tuesday was nearly \$68,000. Combining this with the nearly \$83,000 brought in by our year-end campaign, and a \$50,000 donation from Zoo friend and Guardian Member, Lynn Brown, brings the total raised for our new coati habitat to over \$200,000! Funding efforts for this exciting project continue into 2024.



BRICK BY BRICK

Since 2021, the Phoenix Zoo has been selling personalized bricks to commemorate the construction of Predator Passage and aid in the fundraising of this monumental project. Thanks to our community, nearly 1,400 bricks have been sold and installed, raising more than \$430,000! While many bricks were purchased with the sole purpose of supporting the Zoo and Predator Passage, we have a variety of meaningful bricks being laid. Donors have purchased bricks as a tribute to a loved one or even to continue a family tradition. An exciting surprise was the number of donors who shared that their parents purchased bricks on the bridge 30 years ago and now they are donating bricks for their children at Predator Passage.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Just as deer leave their antlers to nourish other living creatures, our Antler Society members leave behind a legacy to enrich the Phoenix Zoo and the animals that call it home. Through a planned gift of a will, charitable trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy, these legacy gifts strengthen the Zoo's ability to fulfill its mission.

NEW ANTLER SOCIETY MEMBERS

In loving memory of my son, Scott A. Baker

Vicki Broman and Jack Wesolowski

Crystal DeVelis

June E. Durnall

Jill H. Ford

Lorraine Frias

Desert Ron

Mark Schoenberg

Elizabeth Aiken Toth



PHOENIX ZOO AUXILIARY

You've probably spotted women in black and white striped vests roaming the Zoo during a daytime visit or at an event. You may have even wondered who these women are and why they wear these vests. The iconic zebra stripes are synonymous with the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary; a group of women who are dedicated to philanthropy and supporting the Zoo.

The Auxiliary, started by Nancy Maytag in 1961, had only four members their inaugural year. Now, the Auxiliary is more than 100 members strong!

In 2023, the Auxiliary participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of Big Cats of Arizona. The Auxiliary generously contributed \$50,000 to the project, which will provide new homes for the Zoo's mountain lions and jaguars.

Sixty-two years later, this group of women continues to embody Nancy Maytag's first description of the Auxiliary, "Doing a little fundraising and being helpful wherever we're needed" when it comes to a new project or improvement at the Zoo.



IN GRATITUDE

\$1,000,000 AND ABOVE

Estate of Colette Adrienne Franznick
Margaret Scott

\$500,000 TO \$999,999

Estate of Susan A. Augsburg
The Arthur L. &
Elaine V. Johnson Foundation

\$100,000 TO \$499,999

Barry and Jean Bingham
Lynn H. Brown
The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation
The Dorothy D. and
Joseph A. Moller Foundation
Estate of Lee Goldberg
Gila River Indian Community
Kathleen and John Graham
John F. Long Foundation
Margaret T. Morris Foundation
Nancy K. Stevens Trust
under the Margaret J. Fogdall Trust
Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary
Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
SRP
Valley Toyota Dealers Association

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

America First Credit Union
Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation,
Molly Blank Fund
Margaret R. Hacker
The Kemper and Ethel
Marley Foundation
Jacob F. Long
Moreno Family Foundation
Swire Coca-Cola
Ed and Lynn Villanueva

\$25,000 TO \$49,999

Kathleen and Steven Ashby
City of Phoenix -
Office of Arts & Culture
Desert Ron
Estate of Eleanor Rosser
Event Network
The Fred Maytag Family Foundation
Merald W. “Buzz” & Sue Jones Fund
Jim Miller
Wayne and Pat Needham
Tohono O’odham Nation

\$10,000 TO \$24,999

Mark and Misty Albertsen
Jeanette Alexander
Anonymous
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Beech-Nut
Philip and Lydia Bell
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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Carter Family Charitable Foundation

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Bobette Gorden Family Foundation
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Jacqueline Destremps and Tom Kraby
JoEllen Doornbos
Cindy Eckert-Timm and Damon Timm
Edward Eisele
Fred and Kay Fathe
Bertram and Betty Feingold
Daniel and Lorraine Frias
Gammage & Burnham
Jeff and Dee Gibbons
Michael Goodman
Mary Gray
Chris Hettlinger
David Higgins and

Denise Andriello-Higgins
April Howland
John and Gail Krueger
Steven and Dori Lewis
McIntosh Family Foundation
Bonnie Mendoza and Arnold Mejia
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\$5,000 TO \$9,999

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Wells Fargo
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Barbara P. Young
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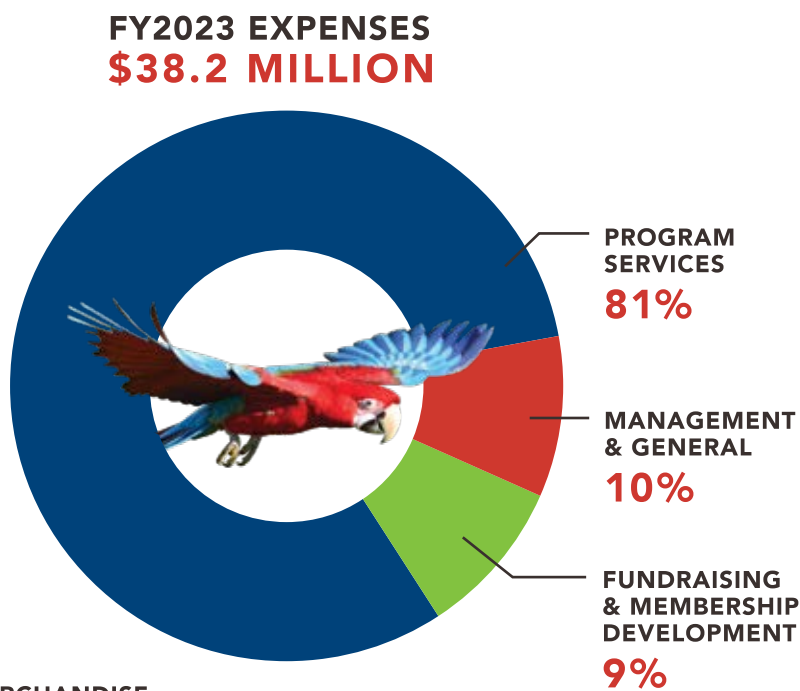
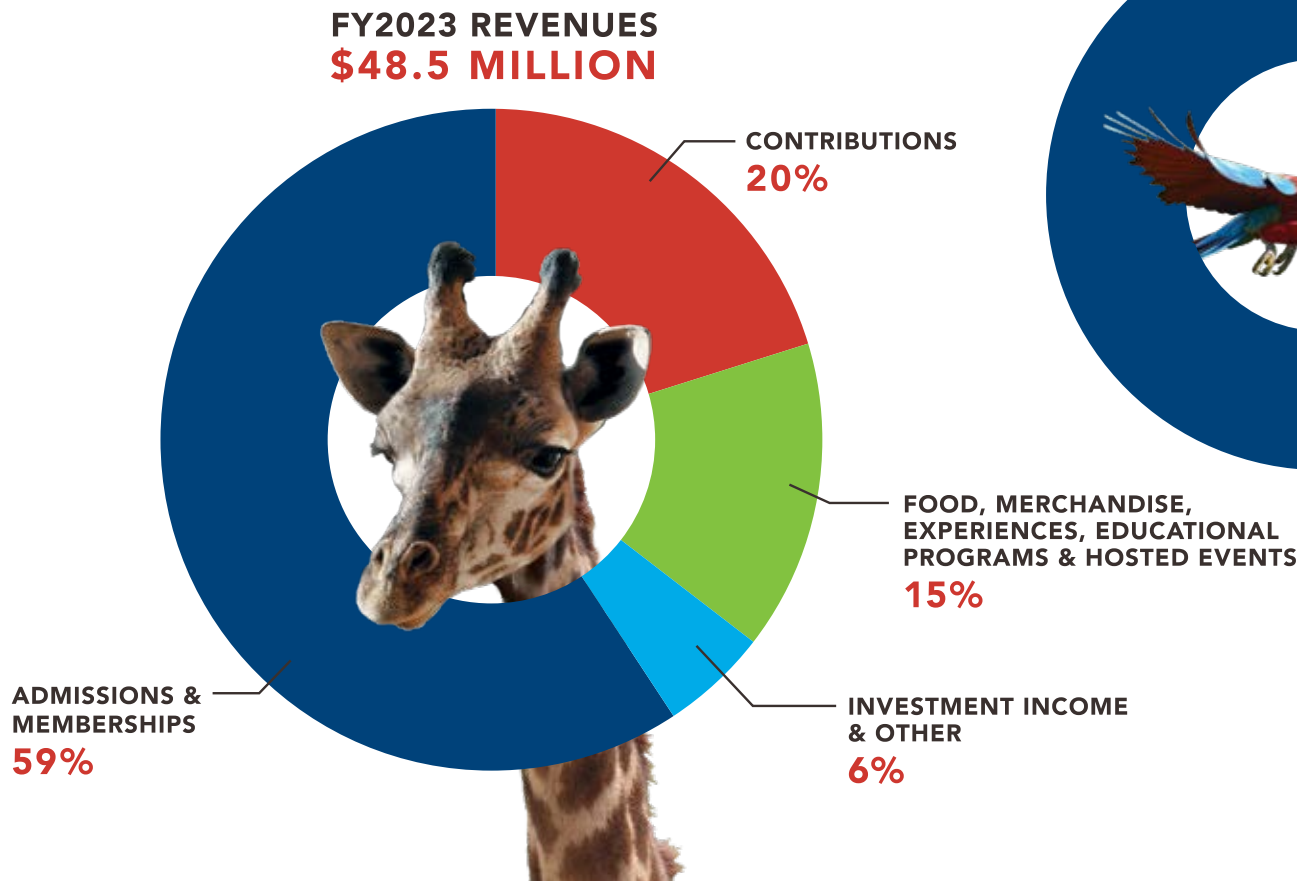
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All supporters as of December 31, 2023. The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation regrets the omission of any names. Please inform the Donor Relations Department at 602.914.4362 if this has occurred so our records can be updated.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



SUPPORT & REVENUE

FY2023 REVENUES
\$48.5 MILLION

ADMISSIONS & MEMBERSHIPS
\$28.8 MILLION | 59%

CONTRIBUTIONS
\$ 9.8 MILLION | 20%

FOOD, MERCHANDISE, EXPERIENCES, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & HOSTED EVENTS
\$ 7.3 MILLION | 15%

INVESTMENT INCOME & OTHER
\$ 2.6 MILLION | 6%

EXPENSES

FY2023 EXPENSES
\$38.2 MILLION

PROGRAM SERVICES
\$31.1 MILLION | 81%

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL
\$ 3.6 MILLION | 10%

FUNDRAISING & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
\$ 3.5 MILLION | 9%



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	For the year ended June 30, 2023	For the year ended June 30, 2022
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Admissions & Memberships	\$ 28,725,162	\$ 23,170,083
Educational Programs	610,310	439,261
Group Services	1,713,900	1,179,980
Food & Retail	5,016,175	4,659,944
Contributions **	9,840,361	16,294,766
Investment Income/(Loss)	2,537,746	(1,049,641)
Other	35,850	(30,278)
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 48,479,504	\$ 44,664,115
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 31,096,544	24,615,305
Management & General	3,596,791	3,133,689
Fundraising & Membership Development	3,543,600	3,200,882
Total Expenses	\$ 38,236,935	\$ 30,949,876
Change in Net Assets	\$ 10,242,569	\$ 13,714,239
NET ASSETS Beginning of Year	\$ 80,496,153	66,781,914
NET ASSETS End of Year	\$ 90,738,722	\$ 80,496,153

** Includes revenue with donor restrictions prior to release for Capital Campaign and other projects of \$8,255,003 for 2023 and \$1,774,745 for 2022. 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.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 14,128,938	\$ 28,020,127
Treasury bills, short-term	20,202,057	-
Contributions Receivable	101,516	151,182
Other Current Assets	610,896	1,646,506
Other Assets		
Investments	4,023,025	5,617,229
Endowments	10,911,205	9,782,403
Assets restricted for long-term purposes		
Cash	5,784,889	4,370,106
Contributions Receivable	1,673,627	1,061,643
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	355,042	-
Property & Equipment, net	37,607,746	33,148,726
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	5,363,696	5,164,049
Other Assets	31,222	24,371
Total Assets	\$ 100,793,859	\$ 88,986,342
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 4,312,898	\$ 3,799,889
Deferred Revenue	5,387,427	4,690,300
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	68,174	-
Operating Lease Liabilities, Net of Current Portion	286,638	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 10,055,137	\$ 8,490,189
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$ 67,663,609	\$ 62,528,033
With donor restrictions	23,075,113	17,968,120
Total Net Assets	\$ 90,738,722	\$ 80,496,153
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 100,793,859	\$ 88,986,342

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Bronwen Barnett
Executive Assistant

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Science, Learning & Engagement

Lorraine Frias
Senior Vice President of
Institutional Advancement

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Vice President of Marketing,
Communications & Events

Dave Loncala
Vice President of Finance & Accounting

Christine Lowery-Nunez
Chief Administrative Officer

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Financial Officer

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Desmond Wilson





455 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008

MISSION STATEMENT

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.**

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