



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024

THAT'S **ZOO** WE ARE.

phoenix**zoo**  
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



The Phoenix Zoo is the only zoo in the Valley accredited by the Association of Zoos & 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, Columbia, Paraguay and beyond.

[phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org)



## DEAR FRIENDS,

In last year's Annual Report, I proudly reported on the completion of Predator Passage, the largest single project in the Zoo's history. Here we are just one year later and I'm eager to share the fundraising is nearly complete for what will now be known as the largest single project in the Zoo's history; the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC). At \$23 million and 27,000 square feet, the VMC will change the scope of veterinary medical care at the Phoenix Zoo forever. Not only that, but the research and training conducted here has the potential to improve veterinary medical care and better meet the needs of the precious animal lives that we, and so many other facilities around the world, work so diligently to preserve. As you will read in this Annual Report, our veterinary team has been incredibly busy this past year. Just imagine what they'll be able to do with this amazing new space! We'll be breaking ground this spring and are excited to share our progress throughout 2025.

With 27 new species added in 2024, we have enjoyed watching you all get to know our new meerkat mob and the new faces on the Children's Trail, Ernie the Southern tamandua and Gigi the prehensile-tailed porcupine. These two fascinating South American mammal species are incredible examples of the biodiversity that exists all over the world.

The additions of Chutti's little half-brother, Bhotu, to the Tropics Trail and, of course, lion cub brothers Jasiri and Azizi to Predator Passage, have been exciting. But the threats to the future of these two large, iconic species in the wild are very real. We are proud to participate with zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums around the world on the conservation of these two species.

### FRONT COVER:

Lion cubs Azizi and Jasiri relaxing at Predator Passage.

And speaking of conservation, our work in both Arizona and around the world continues to be the highest priority for our organization. Whether we're head-starting and releasing young Chiricahua leopard frogs into Arizona's waterways or developing technology to listen for poaching activities in Costa Rican forests, we find that working with conservation partners is the best way to maximize our efforts and our impact. Conservation of species cannot happen in isolation, and we are very grateful for the dedicated conservationists working both on our staff and for our partners. We were particularly proud when the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Southwest Regional Office named us their External Partner of the Year for our significant contributions to Fish & Wildlife Service mission accomplishment in the Southwest Region. Together we are making a difference.

Our Learning and Engagement programs continue to expand and 2024 saw our first ever Spring Break Camp. We held another successful Teen Career Conference where we shared the diverse career opportunities the zoo world provides with 179 teens and adults. Our ZooTeens have had a great year back on campus and our Trailblazers Youth Advisory Council are giving us great advice on engaging with their peers, as well as participating in projects and events around the Zoo. We continue to share the amazing discoveries that can be made every day with the 78,000 people joining our Safari Cruiser rides, Backstage Adventures and Discovery Tours and the 70,000+ students on Zoo field trips.

Our events are going strong, our exhibits in the Wild Side Gallery and the Savanna Gallery, inside the Savanna Grill, continue to draw interested new audiences and the sponsorships from the community in support of our work continue to provide great opportunities for fun and engaging new programs.

Our Operations team never stops improving the Zoo, whether it's replacing the carousel or enlarging the ringtail habitat, the hardworking men and women in this department always exceed my expectations. The construction of Big Cats of Arizona has provided them much to oversee this year, but we're excited this incredible addition will provide all of you with the opportunity to see and learn more about Arizona's big cat species, the mountain lion and the jaguar. The grand opening is right around the corner, so we'll be looking forward to welcoming you to this new and improved section of the Arizona Trail very soon.

2024 was another fantastic year at the Phoenix Zoo. We are, as always, tremendously grateful for our sponsors, supporting foundations, corporations and our individual members and donors from our community. We are humbled by your support and excited for the new year. Hope to see you all at the Zoo soon!

Sincerely,

**Norberto J. (Bert) Castro**

*President and CEO,*

*Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo*

# LIVING COLLECTION

## LION CUBS

An exciting year in the Living Collection department was headlined by the arrival of two handsome and healthy male lion cubs in June. Born to mom Zuri and dad Boboo, both Azizi and Jasiri have been incredible additions to Predator Passage, growing our pride and bringing immense joy to staff and guests alike. Sadly, the cubs' father, Boboo, was never able to meet his cubs. After initial examination and exploratory surgery, our Veterinary team found an aggressive form of cancer involving both kidneys and the spleen. He was humanely euthanized the week following the birth of Azizi and Jasiri, before they had been introduced. We are comforted knowing that his legacy lives on through his cubs. It was a heartbreaking loss, but our dedicated team of keepers channeled the energy into raising two energetic and lovable cubs.

The arrival of Azizi and Jasiri was the first birth of lions at the Phoenix Zoo since 1976 and a huge win not only for the Phoenix Zoo, but also for the AZA Lion Species Survival Plan (SSP®) and the Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program that work to ensure the safety and longevity of imperiled species across the world.

Zuri has been a fantastic first-time mother and her sister Kamara has certainly done her part keeping the rambunctious cubs in line. The two lionesses, who joined us from Pueblo Zoo in Colorado in 2023, have made themselves at home in Predator Passage and continue to amaze and educate guests as strong representations of their species.





Zuri has been a fantastic first-time mother and her sister Kamara has certainly done her part keeping the rambunctious cubs in line.



The brothers are not shy and you can often find them right up against the glass interacting with and peering out at Zoo guests.



## THE MOB ARRIVES

After almost a full year of anticipation, the mob finally descended on the Phoenix Zoo. In the fall of 2024, three meerkat brothers traveled to Predator Passage, to make their home in the newly built habitat. Joseph, Plymouth and Stabler wasted no time making themselves comfortable, exploring the network of tunnels beneath the earth and keeping a watchful eye atop the termite mounds. The brothers are not shy and you can often find them right up against the glass interacting with and peering out at Zoo guests.

## VULTURE CHICK HATCHES

In February, we had our first Rüppell's griffon vulture hatch in their new habitat in Predator Passage. This was the first hatch of this species at the Zoo since 2020 and is a welcome addition for a species that is critically endangered with only 20,000 individuals left in the wild. They are suffering from dramatic population decline throughout their range due to habitat loss and the poisoning of carcasses. Vultures are integral in ensuring the health of our environments by cleaning carcasses, which may develop diseases that are harmful to other animals in the ecosystem.

## PINE SNAKE RELEASE

The Louisiana pine snake population in the AZA exists to create a sustainable wild population by breeding to release individuals. The Zoo has a solid track record of reproducing the species for this purpose and had six more young animals sent out this year to be released in August! Over the years, we have produced a total of 19 animals that have been released to the wild.

## ZEBRA

Najuma, a four-year-old Grevy's zebra, joined our herd in the fall as a recommendation to pair with our male, Tuari. Najuma comes from San Diego Zoo Safari Park and can be seen sharing the habitat with our other female Masika.

## TAKING TO THE TREES

The spring brought new species to the Zoo's Children's Trail in Ernie, the Southern tamandua and Gigi, the prehensile-tailed porcupine. Ernie joined us from Staten Island Zoo and shares a habitat with Fernando the sloth. The two have gotten along well and continue to spend most of the day sleeping next to one another. Gigi came to Phoenix by way of Riverbanks Zoo & Garden in Columbia, South Carolina and has become a social media favorite. You can find many videos of Gigi on our social media chewing on flowers, bananas and other treats to the delight of our followers.

## KIDS ON THE FARM

In the spring we welcomed two litters of baby goats on the farm, born to mothers Hazel and Moth, just over a week apart. Hazel was first, giving birth to three kids with no complications. Sadly, after a month on the farm, one of the kids began to show signs of illness. The male in the group, Flower, developed sepsis and, unfortunately, after a few weeks in the Joyce Corrigan Memorial Care Center, did not make it. However, a few days after Hazel had given birth, Moth, a six-year-old Nigerian dwarf goat, went into labor to deliver her two kids. Moth was struggling with the delivery by herself, so our amazing team jumped right in to assist with the birth led by Dr. Loren Lassiter in addition to the farm/equine team. The four young goats, now almost a year old can be seen at the Petting Zoo in Harmony Farm on the Nina Mason Pulliam Children's Trail, along with their mothers.

## RHINO ARRIVAL

No, you're not seeing double, that is Chutti's half-brother, Bhotu! To cap off an active year, Bhotu, a greater one-horned rhino, joined us from San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The teeny-tiny 3,000 pound three-year-old, a couple thousand pounds less than Chutti at this stage of his life, is another arrival in what we hope to be a growing crash of greater one-horned rhinoceros at the Phoenix Zoo. Bhotu will continue to live separate from Chutti, as full-grown males are solitary in nature. The plan is to rotate Bhotu, Chutti and Indu, our Asian elephant, through the three large habitats on the Tropics Trail, so you never know who you may find where!

# COLLECTION NUMBERS



## INVERTEBRATES

36 SPECIES | ~15,500 INDIVIDUALS\*



## FISH

12 SPECIES | ~5,600 INDIVIDUALS\*\*



## AMPHIBIANS

23 SPECIES | ~2,350 INDIVIDUALS



## REPTILES

123 SPECIES | 438 INDIVIDUALS



## BIRDS

116 SPECIES | 443 INDIVIDUALS



## MAMMALS

87 SPECIES | 403 INDIVIDUALS

\*Includes some large groups. \*\*Includes ponds with large groups.



# CONSERVATION NEWS

## HISTORIC OCELOT SIGHTING

The Phoenix Zoo's Atascosa Complex Wildlife Study recorded a video of a new ocelot in southern Arizona in June. The Zoo's field cameras have been deployed in the Coronado National Forest's Nogales Ranger District since April, under a research permit issued by the US Forest Service. A multi-agency review team concluded that this is a new cat not previously seen in the state. In addition, it is the first confirmed ocelot sighting in the region in at least 50 years. The Atascosa Highlands, which includes the Atascosa, Tumacácori and Pajarito mountains, is a known

wildlife corridor, but is relatively understudied, particularly compared to other wildlife corridors in southeastern Arizona. The Zoo's Field Conservation Research team, including ASU's Dr. Jan Schipper, conducted a pilot study in 2023 using 30 field cameras, which recorded 21 species of mammals, but no ocelots or jaguars. The number and diversity of species recorded during the pilot study spurred the Zoo team to expand the study in 2024 to include more cameras and greater diversity of habitat types sampled. We are eager to learn more as the study continues.



**A multi-agency review team concluded that this is a new cat not previously seen in the state.**



## MAKING AN IMPACT: CONSERVATION PARTNERS VALUE THE PHOENIX ZOO'S WORK

The Phoenix Zoo is a leader in wildlife conservation efforts in Arizona and beyond. We are proud to have earned the trust and confidence of collaborating scientists from federal and state agencies, universities and other conservation organizations. Here are some of their perspectives on the value of our contributions in 2024.

"Among all of our conservation partners, the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo is our most active and important collaborator for on-the-ground wildlife actions. Zoo staff participate in our monitoring and translocation efforts for native springsnails, gartersnakes, Chiricahua leopard frogs and black-footed ferrets."

**Jeff A. Sorensen**

Invertebrate Wildlife Program Manager,  
Arizona Game & Fish Department



"Partnerships like the one we have with the Phoenix Zoo are so beneficial to recovery of a species. We each have areas where we excel in each step of recovery and the Zoo provides expert care and husbandry to so many species that need that kind of dedication. Species like black-footed ferrets wouldn't even be found in the wild without their contributions."

**Holly Hicks**

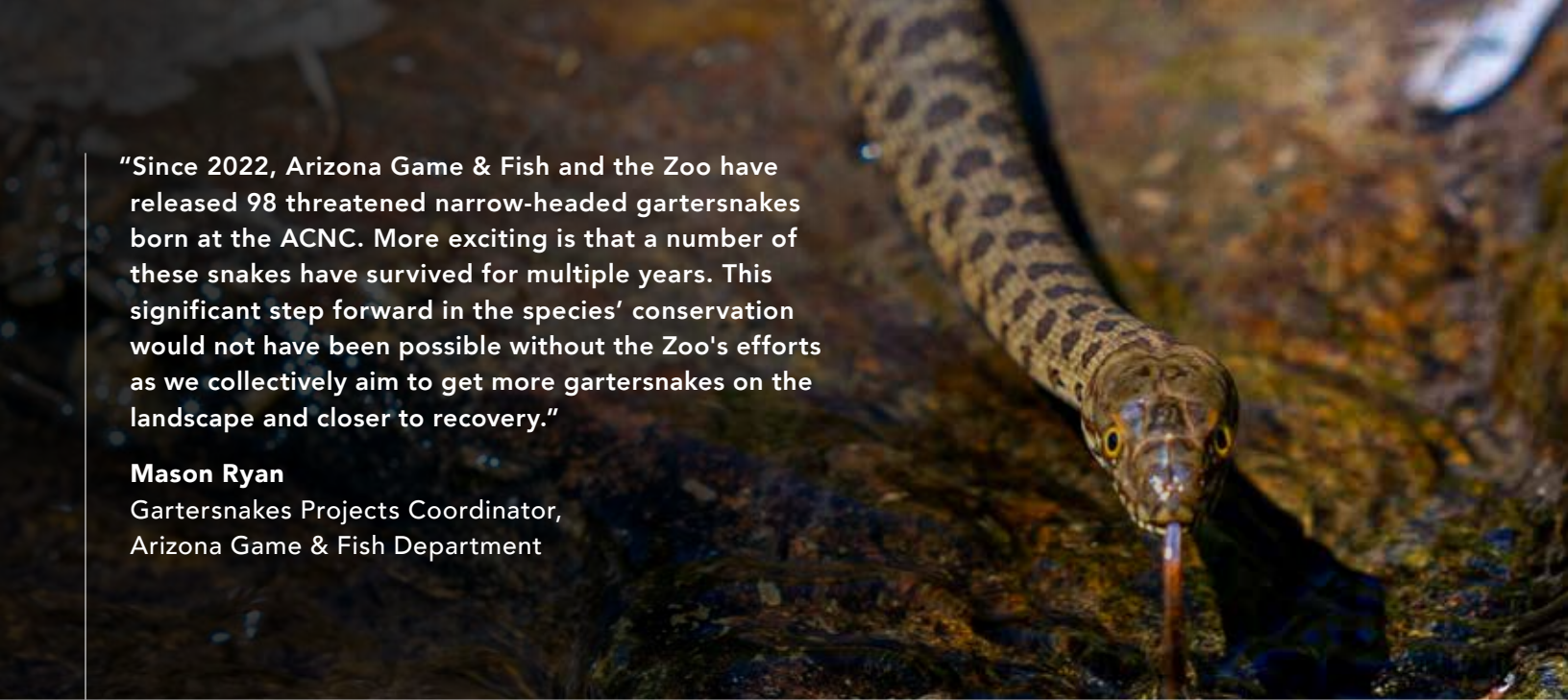
Small Mammal Project Coordinator,  
Arizona Game & Fish Department

"For nearly 30 years, the ACNC/Phoenix Zoo has been helping recover Chiricahua leopard frogs by head-starting and providing a safe environment to rear the egg masses to the tadpole or juvenile frog stage. Arizona's Chiricahua leopard frog population has increased 400% since the species' recovery plan was put in place in 2007. Without question this progress would not be possible without the ACNC's dedicated frog program."

**Audrey Owens**

Ranid Frogs Project Coordinator,  
Arizona Game & Fish Department





"Since 2022, Arizona Game & Fish and the Zoo have released 98 threatened narrow-headed gartersnakes born at the ACNC. More exciting is that a number of these snakes have survived for multiple years. This significant step forward in the species' conservation would not have been possible without the Zoo's efforts as we collectively aim to get more gartersnakes on the landscape and closer to recovery."

**Mason Ryan**

Gartersnakes Projects Coordinator,  
Arizona Game & Fish Department



"The Phoenix Zoo has made an ideal partner in collaborative work on developing technologies for remote monitoring of wildlife and for the development of systems to help protect against poaching. It is invaluable to have a partner where research work can be undertaken in the field, and to have a partner who is committed to long-term research. I thank the Zoo so much for being open to being an equal partner in our innovative efforts to find new ways to support conservation."

**Professor Garth Paine**

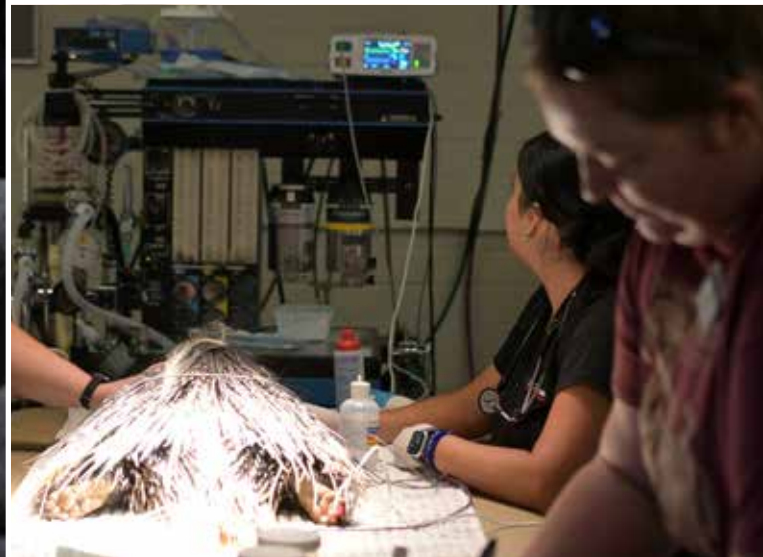
Co-Director, Acoustic Ecology Lab,  
ASU School of Arts, Media and Engineering



"I chose to work with the Zoo for my internship because I was excited to be a part of the Conservation team's numerous projects in Arizona and beyond. I have completed fieldwork, sorted photos and presented at symposiums on wildlife camera projects. This position has exposed me to a potential career and allowed me to evaluate my goals within conservation. Working with Kinley [Phoenix Zoo's Field Research Project Manager] has provided me with mentorship and support along the way. I am so grateful to the Phoenix Zoo for providing this opportunity that has truly shaped my experience as an undergraduate student at ASU."

**Salomae Mulder**

ASU School of Life Sciences Undergraduate Researcher



# VETERINARY UPDATES

## LION CUB CHECK-UP

As the lion cubs continue to grow, our Veterinary team works to make sure they are on track with weights, vaccines and overall health. The team conducted neonate examinations at eight weeks and 12 weeks, which included vaccinations. By 16 weeks, the Carnivore team had successfully trained the cubs to willingly participate in their injections and medical care, using food to direct them to specific locations, providing easier access for their keepers.

## BLACK-FOOTED FERRET DENTAL EXAMS

Our black-footed ferrets receive annual examinations, including dental exams, typically as pre-release assessments to ensure best success once they are in the wild. To guarantee a black-footed ferret can be released into the wild, they must have the equivalent of three functional canines, so we aim to perform root canals rather than opt for tooth extractions. If we detect a fractured canine, we contact a board-certified veterinary dentist to perform the procedure.

## IN 2024, PHOENIX ZOO VETERINARIANS:



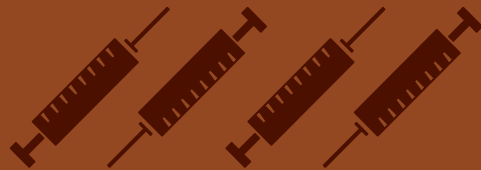
— ENTERED OVER —

**5,000** CLINICAL NOTES

TO ANIMAL MEDICAL RECORDS

— PERFORMED NEARLY —

**400** ANESTHETIC PROCEDURES



— WROTE NEARLY —

**3,000** PRESCRIPTIONS

FOR THE ZOO'S ANIMALS



— HOSTED —

**10** VET STUDENTS

DURING MONTH LONG EXTERNSHIPS



## LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

One hundred and seventy nine teens and adults spent a full day at our annual Teen Career Conference (TCC) on February 10, 2024. The TCC featured a keynote by the Zoo's Field Research Project Manager, Kinley Ragan, and panels on topics such as Trends in Animal & Conservation Sciences, Diverse Views and Career Paths and Animal Care & Support Professionals at the Phoenix Zoo. Our own Trailblazers Youth Advisory Council emceed the event and moderated the panel discussions.

Also in February, 207 members of the community came out to the Zoo to enjoy Conservation Science Night. This free event included interactive, hands-on, STEM activities and games, cohosted by Learning & Engagement and Conservation teams. Guests got to meet our conservation scientists and hear first-hand about the work they do. From snail surveys to snake tracking, families had a wonderful time learning about conservation.

We are expanding our partnership with the Arizona Department of Education's Migrant Education Program, which serves the migrant worker community, providing resources to help support student success. In two separate events this year, students from grades 7 - 12 and their families from around the state participated in hikes and

standards-based programming at the Zoo. The Deputy Associate Superintendent of the Office of English Language Acquisitions Services & Migrant Education Program, Adela Santa Cruz, attended the fall event.

Homeschool Days continue to be a popular learning resource for homeschool families. This year we had more than 1,000 people participating in STEM learning activities facilitated by Zoo staff, volunteers and partner organizations such as U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

We have also connected with guests online through our extensive animal fact resources. In 2024 we had nearly 106,000 clicks on our website fact sheets.

Zoo staff conducted a teacher professional development workshop in Cochise County in partnership with the Bisbee Science Lab for teachers from across southern Arizona. Educators spent a full day learning about how to use the BioConnect kit that was developed in partnership with the ASU Biomimicry Institute. The Bisbee Mobile Science Lab also uses the BioConnect kit as part of their traveling lab, visiting students in southern Arizona and connecting them to nature through biomimicry.

## CAMPS

Our first-ever Spring Break Camp was a huge success! Forty campers hiked the trails, met animal ambassadors, participated in behind-the-scenes experiences at the Zoo and had a full day of adventures in Papago Park.

This year Summer Camp Zoo welcomed 852 campers for a week of backstage experiences, hikes, games and learning activities. As part of Camp this year, students created habitats and posters for an animal of their choice. As one parent shared, "I feel like this is the first camp they have been able to attend where they felt safe and loved and had fun and learned!"



Spending the night at the Zoo creates a lifelong memory for students. This year we hosted 2,183 children and adults at Night Camps. One of the highlights of the year was a Girl Scout Troop made up of young women with special needs. The Night Camp team created accessible experiences just for them and made each and every member of the troop feel welcomed and included.

Family Night Camps are back! Family members set up tents on the lawn at Harmony Farm and enjoyed a night filled with family-friendly activities, stories and walks along Zoo trails.

## FIELD TRIPS & TOURS

This year we welcomed 70,940 students on field trips to the Zoo. More than 3,000 of them participated in a standards-based guided tour designed to offer real-world context for their classroom learning.

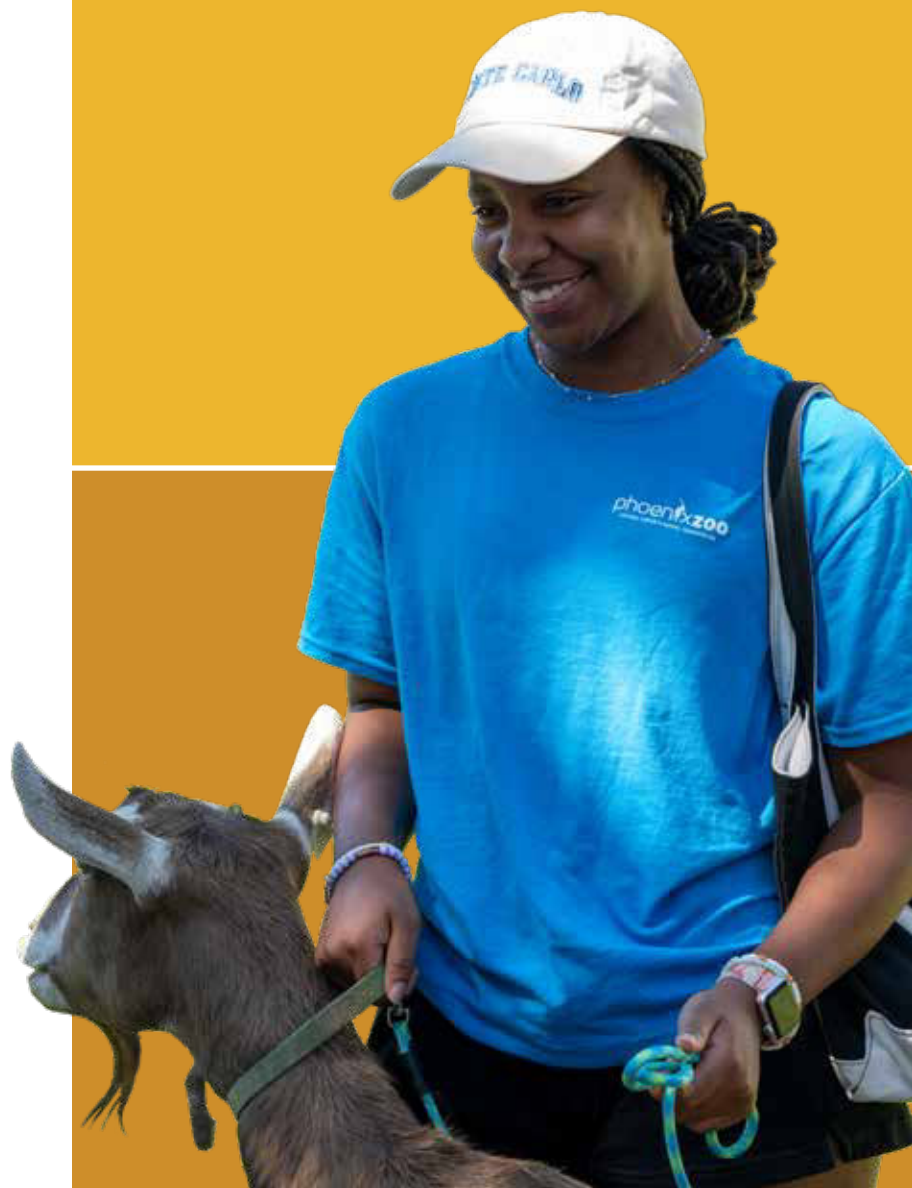
We continue to deliver great programs for Zoo guests, with over 78,000 joining us for Safari Cruiser rides, Backstage Adventures and Discovery Tours in 2024.

## TRAILBLAZERS AND ZOOTEENS

Our ZooTeens program returned in 2024! We are excited to welcome 50 exceptional young people to our first ZooTeen volunteer cohort since 2019. This talented group of teens has hit the ground running and can be seen out in the Zoo on weekends walking goats on the farm, offering story time for young children and engaging guests along the trails.

We recently welcomed our second cohort of Trailblazers Youth Advisory Council members. These 20 diverse teens from around the Valley are advising the Zoo on engaging their peers, learning leadership skills and participating in conservation service projects. Five of the group of 20 are returning from last year.

In June, 20 members of the Teen Advisory Group from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and four of their chaperones connected and collaborated at the Zoo as part of an initiative to connect our teen councils. Trailblazers also participated in a meeting with the Teen Advisory Council of the Arizona Science Center, exchanging ideas and sharing the work they're doing.





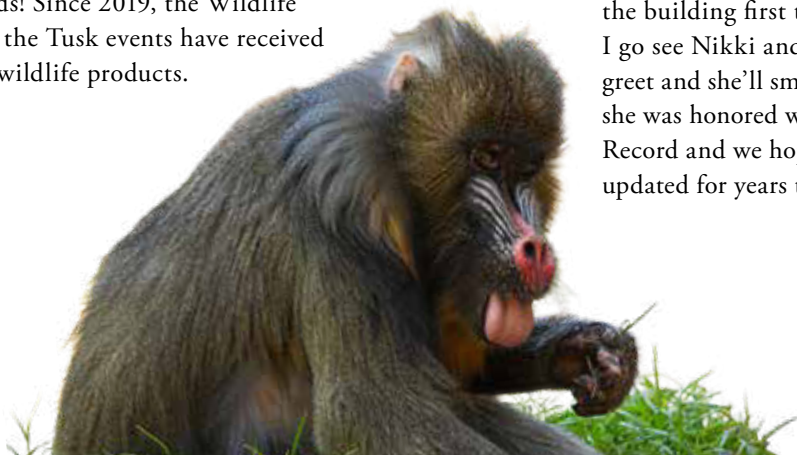
## BRAND DEVELOPMENT

### TOSS THE TUSK

Alongside the AZA and USFWS, the Phoenix Zoo was able to participate in this year's Toss the Tusk event on September 27. Toss the Tusk, an ivory surrender event, is an opportunity for individuals to donate any ivory or other animal products to ensure it is no longer available to be traded or sold. The surrendered pieces are kept by USFWS in a repository to be used as educational tools. Through our event, the Phoenix Zoo collected 50 items weighing over 140 pounds! Since 2019, the Wildlife Tracking Alliance's Toss the Tusk events have received over 1,000 relinquished wildlife products.

### NIKKI IS A GUINNESS RECORD HOLDER!

At 37, Nikki is the oldest living mandrill in managed care. Nikki joined us from Portland six years ago and has made a profound impact on those who have been lucky enough to work with her since she arrived in Phoenix. Tysen, a primate keeper, says "Nikki teaches me patience. We live in Nikki's world, she'll take her time to do things, or she'll do things very quickly, it's all up to her. When I come into the building first thing in the morning, I go see Nikki and do a mandrill "smile" greet and she'll smile back at me." In 2024, she was honored with a Guinness World Record and we hope it continues to be updated for years to come!





LIVING AND DYING IN AMERICA'S HOTTEST BIG CITY

## COOLING THE FLOCK

Zookeepers and botanists work overtime in extreme heat



A rhinoceros hornbill eats a grape at the Phoenix Zoo in July. PHOTOS BY MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

Joan Meiners Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

**B**y 6:35 a.m., Ryan Vittetoe has already laid eyes on 75 of the 90 birds in his care. In the early August heat, already 95 degrees at this hour, starting the morning with a quick round of wellness checks is critical to making sure each of the 30 avian species housed along the



## RISING TEMPS IN THE VALLEY

As the Phoenix summers get hotter, the Zoo is finding new ways to serve our animals and our guests alike. In keeping with prior years, we've maintained our early opening hours, and have permanently adjusted our closing time to 1 p.m. in the summer. This change allows Zoo guests to still enjoy the park and provide the best opportunity to see the animals before they spend the afternoon escaping the heat, just like us.

In July, SRP Snow Day was a great success again, providing the animals with snow to cool down and a way to experience a different form of behavioral enrichment. Our guests also got to enjoy free soft serve ice cream from Mr. Softee!



## INSTAGRAM TAKEOVER



ENGAGEMENT RATE  
 UP 54 PERCENT FROM  
**5.6% – 8.6%**



FOLLOWER COUNT GREW  
**8 PERCENT TO  
 OVER 170K**



**2,149,274 VIEWS**  
 OF THE LION CUBS  
 ON INSTAGRAM



THE LION CUBS REACHED  
**4,576,051 PEOPLE**  
 ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

# AWARDS

## NEW TIMES BEST OF PHOENIX

The Phoenix Zoo is honored to be named "Best Zoo in Phoenix" and "Best Family-Friendly Fun" by Phoenix New Times. Serving as a beloved and exciting destination for families, nature enthusiasts and visitors from around the globe, the Zoo remains dedicated to inspiring a love for the natural world and fostering connections between people and wildlife. Thank you to our community for your continued support and belief in our mission!



## RANKING ARIZONA/AZ BIG MEDIA #1 IN ATTRACTIONS: ZOOS & WILDLIFE PARKS

The Zoo has been ranked consistently #1 in this publication for the past twelve years in a row and has been included in the ranking since 2001. The Zoo is grateful to all those who continue to vote for us year after year.



## ARIZONA REPUBLIC — 2024 BEST OF THE DESERT COMMUNITY'S CHOICE AWARD

The community voted the Phoenix Zoo as both "Best Zoo" and "Best Birthday Party Venue" among a curated list of the best organizations and destinations represented in the West and East Valley communities.



## EXTERNAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes external partners who have made significant contributions to USFWS' mission accomplishment in the Southwest Region. USFWS Biologist Marit Alanen nominated the Zoo for this award, stating that "The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo has provided exemplary leadership in wildlife conservation by contributing significantly to the recovery of numerous species."



## ART ON THE WILD SIDE

After opening its doors in 2023, the Wild Side Gallery displayed its first juried show, *Inspired: Arizona Artists Celebrate the Natural World*. Artwork from more than 50 artists showcased unique perspectives of wildlife, conservation and the natural world through a variety of mediums.

Following the juried show, we hosted our first loaned exhibit, *Vanishing Circles*; from the collection of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. To finish the year the Gallery welcomed four artists for *Common Ground: Diverse Visions Inspire a Common Passion*. JenMarie Zeleznak, Frank Gonzales, Art Holeman and Jason Napier created pieces for this exhibit including works in watercolor pencil, acrylic, photography and bronze sculptures.

In the spring we partnered with Ramat Gan Zoo in Israel to show that though separated by over 7,000 miles, Phoenix, Arizona and Ramat Gan, Israel share a special bond. Not only are we Sister Cities but we are home to world-class zoos dedicated to our respective missions of animal and nature conservation and education. The Savanna Gallery exhibit featured photography from both zoos, with a focus on vulture conservation.

Later in the year we also partnered with non-profit, Kids in Focus, to feature photography captured by children from the Valley. Kids in Focus provides over 700 unique experiences to more than 350 students each year and creates opportunities for any child to express their unique perspective and voice with skills that foster confidence, resilience and joy.



# EVENTS

## ZOOBILATION

In 2024, we introduced our new fundraising event, Zoobilation. The spring fundraiser allowed guests to travel through the Zoo, progressive dinner style, journeying to distant lands through food and music.



Sponsored by Valley Toyota Dealers, the inaugural event was a great success, and one lucky guest went home the winner of our raffle with a brand-new Toyota 4Runner, again courtesy of Valley Toyota Dealers. A limited number of tickets were sold, and the raffle alone raised \$137,400 for the Phoenix Zoo. The entire event raised nearly \$300,000 and we're excited to watch it grow over the years.



## ROARS & POURS

With the help of a cheeky TikTok video, our November Roars & Pours saw the highest attendance yet with 3,497 guests making their way to the Zoo for our ZooLights preview themed event. The video itself had over 500,000 views, really helping spread the word. At the Valley's favorite happy hour event we featured a 360 degree photobooth, artisan handcrafted wooden masks for sale, classic Roars & Pours yard games, Chicken Poop Bingo and animal presentations themed Family Feud: Gone Wild. Our Events team continues to innovate and come up with exciting and engaging ideas for our guests, and new ways to enjoy the Zoo's WILD Happy Hour!

## BARNYARD BONANZA

Another new event introduced in 2024 was Barnyard Bonanza: A Phoenix Zoo Fall Festival. This two-day event in October was a celebration of all things fall with cool crafts, fun activities and opportunities to learn from our very own Phoenix Zoo staff with hoof trimming and sheep shearing demonstrations, a lasso toss, sack races and more fun fall festivities. We hope to keep this fall festival for years to come so we can continue to educate young conservationists and enjoy the beautiful fall weather in Phoenix.

## HR CAN HOST EVENTS TOO!

In September, the Human Resources team hosted a job fair in preparation for our busy ZooLights season. The event was geared toward Grounds Quality Associate and Assistant Ranger positions and drew a great crowd. The day of the event our team conducted 45 interviews, resulting in 27 hires! These team members are crucial in the success of ZooLights, ensuring guest safety and satisfaction.





# IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## POOL BUILT FOR GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

You may have noticed on-and-off construction around the elephant and greater one-horned rhino habitat throughout the year. We have been working hard to make those spaces accessible for Indu, Chutti and Bhotu who can switch between the habitats for extra behavioral enrichment. The construction was capped off with the addition of a second pool to better enable our elephant and rhinos to cool down in the hot summers.

## CAROUSEL

After 20 years and countless memories made, the Endangered Species Carousel took its final spin on June 13 to make way for the brand-new Lakeside Carousel. Presented by America First Credit Union, this beautiful new carousel features a range of animals from hippos to hummingbirds to sea dragons, all meticulously hand painted and designed to delight our guests.

## VELDT BARN

The new Veldt Barn, which has been under construction for most of 2024, is nearing completion. This new facility will allow us to hold, and better manage, both more and larger species. Ultimately, this will lead to greater diversity in our iconic Savanna habitat. Potential species to keep an eye out for this spring include impala, greater kudu and marabou stork!

## PUPFISH POND

Since 2008, the Zoo has maintained a breeding population of desert pupfish. This Arizona-native species is listed as Endangered and has lost much of its habitat due to changes people have made to streams and rivers, as well as groundwater pumping and real estate development. This year we relocated the pupfish pond within the Arizona Trail to live alongside other native Arizona species.

## VOLUNTEER MEMORIAL

In honor of volunteer Darren Paschke, who passed away in 2022, a statue was erected in his memory. Darren, who often said "this is my dream job," assisted at Giraffe Encounter for 12 years, fulfilling his passion for wildlife. We would also like to offer a special thank you to the Paschke family, as well as others who donated to fund the tribute piece.



## RINGTAIL HABITAT EXPANSION

On the Arizona Trail the ringtails received a habitat upgrade, expanding their square footage. With two years in a row of successful ringtail births, the added space allows the kits to stay at the Zoo longer, while also being able to remain separate from older ringtails in the habitat.





# SPONSORSHIPS

## DORA VISITS THE ZOO

In partnership with Paramount, the Phoenix Zoo welcomed Dora and Boots to the Tropics Trail for a photo op and the Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater for episodes of DORA on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer. We also provided coloring pages and a list of clues for children to follow on a scavenger hunt through the Zoo's Forest of Uco.

## SENIOR SUNDAYS WITH CENTERWELL

In collaboration with CenterWell, the Zoo hosted Senior Sundays for four Sundays in September, including Grandparents Day to kick off the promotion. Any senior 60 or over was granted free admission to the Zoo and had the opportunity to learn about our animal grandparents and their role in species conservation. In addition, CenterWell hosted the CenterWell Senior Cool Down Station, dedicated to providing items to help beat the heat such as free bottled water and cooling towels.

## COCA-COLA BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

This summer, alongside Coca-Cola, we had the opportunity to give away 500 co-branded backpacks to any Zoo guest who purchased two or more Coca-Cola products on Zoo grounds. The summer promotion was a great way to provide students in Arizona with a fun back-to-school gift to ring in the new school year. We also set aside 100 backpacks that were donated to Ignacio Conchos Elementary School in the Roosevelt School District.



## GROWING A GARDEN

The Sponsor Garden is a dedicated space created to honor and recognize the invaluable contributions of foundations and corporations who have supported the Zoo over the past year. Located prominently at the entrance of the Zoo, this impactful display serves as a tribute to those whose generosity and support help advance the Zoo's mission of conservation, education and animal care.







## MEMBERSHIP AND RETAIL

### MEMBER NEWSLETTER

This year we started sending the members of the Phoenix Zoo a monthly newsletter called “The Phoenix Zoo Insider.” This communication has transformed how we connect with our valued members, fostering stronger engagement and a deeper sense of community. This communication channel not only keeps members informed about the latest happenings at the Zoo but also reminds and encourages them to take advantage of exclusive early access and special discounts on Zoo events and camps.

### GIFT SHOP

The Plaza Marketplace gift shop debuted a newly expanded display, highlighting our beautiful home state. Our Arizona Trail collection continues to be a top seller, featuring designs by a duo of local artists. We also have expanded the footprint of our local food offerings, including product from Cactus

Candy, Made in AZ salsa, jam and prickly pear margarita mix, as well as products from Rango Honey, produced locally in Tempe. Finally, we launched our newest apparel line, known as the Festival Collection, which takes design inspiration from music festival merchandise, and highlights the native pygmy-owl and big horn sheep!

### GIRAFFE ENCOUNTER

After a few years of being paused due to Covid-19, we reopened the Giraffe Encounter, allowing guests to feed the giraffes biscuits and pose for photos with the majestic animals. After a year of retraining the giraffes and preparing the feeding deck, we offered Phoenix Zoo members the chance to put the finishing touches on acclimating the giraffes to new faces and feeders in a members-only feeding session.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

In 2024, the Phoenix Zoo embarked on a significant public fundraising campaign to build a new 27,000-square-foot Veterinary Medical Center. The \$25 million campaign has already reached more than 96 percent of the necessary funds through donations from individuals, organizations and through two separate \$10,000 match opportunities offered by Maja Wessels and her husband Charles Covington and Gael Parks. On Giving Tuesday alone, our community donated over \$33,000 toward the Veterinary Medical Center, to kick off a year-end appeal, raising \$148,700 in the month of December!

The new space will provide large medical facilities with indoor viewing windows and digital screens to educate guests as they observe veterinary exams and animal health procedures which may take place in real time. With a new Veterinary Medical Center, we will continue to provide our animals with the best care possible into the future. Our ongoing commitment remains with training tomorrow's veterinarians and inspiring our guests to more deeply care about animal stewardship and conservation. As donations continue to roll in, we plan to break ground in March of 2025 on what will surely be the heart of the Phoenix Zoo.



## CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/ Phoenix Zoo humbly thanks our key volunteers dedicated to building our new state-of-the-art Veterinary Medical Center, expanding the Zoo's conservation efforts and creating a more dynamic wildlife education experience.

**Derrick M. Hall**  
Campaign Chair

**Norberto J. (Bert) Castro**  
ACNC President/CEO

## CAMPAIGN CABINET

**Jennifer Axel**

**Betsey Bayless**

**Yvonne and Steve Betts**

**Michael Blaire**

**Shawna Bonnett**

**Avery Crossman**

**JoEllen Doornbos**

**Rich Dozer**

**Larry Fink**

**Stephen Fisher, DVM**

**John Graham**

**Sharon and Oliver Harper, MD**

**Linda Hayes**

**Mike Hoover**

**Harry Papp**

**Phil Petersen**

**Stan Shafer**

**Susie Sherman, DVM**

**Gilbert "Buzz" Silverman**

**Maja Wessels**

## CAMPAIGN STAFF

**Lorraine Frias**

**Bonnie Mendoza**

**Gary West, DVM**

**Joe Wilkes**



## PHOENIX ZOO AUXILIARY

The Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary is hard at work continuing to "do a little fundraising and being helpful wherever needed," the historical motto coined by Founder of the Auxiliary, Nancy Maytag. Famous for their Charity Charms with bracelets, earrings and other accessories, the Auxiliary can often be seen at Zoo events selling the charms in addition to beautiful hand-etched glassware featuring Zoo animals as well as greeting cards.

These days, the Auxiliary is keeping busy raising funds for the Zoo's new Veterinary Medical Center through their Pawprints in Glass Tiles project, a great way to commemorate and honor beloved pets. The finished tiles are displayed just outside the Zoo's Plaza Marketplace gift shop and are a perfect complement to the already completed Handprints in Glass project.



# IN GRATITUDE

## **\$1,500,000 AND ABOVE**

JoEllen Doornbos  
The Kemper and  
Ethel Marley Foundation  
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

## **\$100,000 TO \$1,499,999**

Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation  
Mary Bogner  
The Dorothy D. and  
Joseph A. Moller Foundation  
In loving memory of Christiane Eisele  
Estate of Lee Goldberg  
Flinn Foundation  
Margaret Fogdall  
Kathleen and John Graham  
Marie and Mike Hoover  
Lynn Medley Brown  
Joe Raymond  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa  
Indian Community  
Margaret Scott  
Peggy D. Herz and Philip E. Smith  
SRP  
Swire Coca-Cola, USA  
Thunderbirds Charities  
Twiford Foundation  
Valley Toyota Dealers Association

## **\$50,000 TO \$99,999**

America First Credit Union  
Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation  
The Arthur L. &  
Elaine V. Johnson Foundation  
Kathleen and Steven Ashby  
Sue Greenfield  
Andy and Gary Harper  
Deborah Miller and Michael Wallensack  
Arturo and Carole Moreno  
Robert Kemper Corrigan Foundation

## **\$25,000 TO \$49,999**

Allionce Group  
Arizona Milk Producers  
Barry and Jean Bingham  
Bert and Janice Castro  
James C. and Esther M. Crabtree  
Edward Jones  
Estate of Eleanor B. Rosser  
Jeff and Dee Gibbons  
Mary Gray  
Stephen and Natalie Higgins  
Ken and Nancy Husband  
Merald W. "Buzz" & Sue Jones Fund  
Richard and Elaine Morrison  
Wayne and Pat Needham  
Paul and Claudia Paparella  
Primrose Schools  
Target  
Edward and Lynn Villanueva  
Maja Wessels and Charles Covington  
Zielinski Family Trust

## **\$10,000 TO \$24,999**

Judy and Rory Albert  
Mark and Misty Albertsen

Jeanette Alexander  
APS  
Arion Care Solutions  
Arizona Coyotes Foundation  
Betsey Bayless  
Uta Monique Behrens  
Philip and Lydia Bell  
Yvonne A. and Steve Betts  
Steven M. Bloom  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona  
The Boeing Company  
Mark and Shawna Bonnett  
Adam and Nicole Bowman  
Curtis and Cindy Brown  
Carter Family Charitable Foundation  
Jacqueline Chadwick  
Chevron USA, Inc. - SW Division  
City of Phoenix  
- Office of Arts & Culture  
Desert Financial Credit Union  
Desert Ron  
Cindy Eckert-Timm and Damon Timm  
Fred and Kay Fathe  
Bertram and Betty Feingold  
Larry and Margo Fink and Family  
Freepport-McMoRan Inc.  
Fry's Food Store of Arizona  
Julie and Dieter Gable  
Michael Goodman  
Craig and Kathryn Grimco  
Habit Burger Grill - Yum! Brands Inc  
Pam and John Haugen  
Neal and Mediya Hawkins  
Linda Hayes and Andrew Schnieder  
Diana Herron  
Rylee and Hunter Knight  
John and Gail Krueger  
Steven and Dori Lewis  
Louisville Zoo Foundation  
Robert and Michelle Mawk  
Scott and Stephanie Morris  
National Bank of Arizona  
Harry and Verity Oberkfell  
Stephen Ochoa  
Rob and Traci Olson  
Ottawa University  
Matthew and Mary Palenica  
Rose and Harry Papp  
Gael N. Parks  
Alan and Courtney Peril  
Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary  
Pogo Pass  
Jim and Pamela Pratt  
Risas Dental and Braces  
Renewal by Andersen of Phoenix  
Robert Cialdini and  
Bobette Gorden Family Foundation  
Debbie Robson  
Adrien and Gabrielle Sanchez  
Lisa Spragens  
Sundt Construction Inc.  
Susan VanWormer  
Greg Vogel  
Jeannette Wahl  
Charles and Vonnie Wanner  
Carl and Patricia Weiler  
Donald and Diane White  
William Williams

Woodward Fund, Stephen and  
Kathy Woodward  
Barbara P. Young

## **\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

David and Iris Abdo  
Mike and Kim Abel  
Peter and Judy Allard  
Anonymous  
Jim and Kathy Arner  
Atlasta Catering & Event Concepts  
Jennifer Axel  
Brian and Kaye Baehr  
Barbara and Craig Barrett  
Paul and Mary Ellen Baum  
Julianne Blanchette  
BMO Harris Bank  
Sue Bunch  
Richard and Susan Burnham  
Veronica Ciancola  
Gina Cisneros  
Citiscapes  
Bill and Shirlee Cobb  
Joshua Colvin  
Jane Cox  
Clarke and Susan Crawford  
Hollie Crim  
Avery N. Crossman  
Richard Degraw  
Robert Demlong  
Jacqueline Destremps and Tom Kraby  
Clifton and Marilyn Douglas  
Kelly Durham  
Katie Eisenreich and Kevin Thurman  
Dee and Eric Ensign  
Estate of Shirley Provo  
Estelle Findor Maud  
Peter Fine and Rebecca Ailes-Fine  
Joanie L. Flatt  
Marleigh Fletcher  
Mark Frodyma  
Gammage & Burnham  
Eric and Katherine Ganz  
Judith Gold  
Aaron and Rebecca Hale  
Kristin and Ryan Hartman  
Lynne Hipp  
Jaime Hormel  
Barbara Jaquay  
Ronald and Susanne Jarvie  
Julia Carpenter Tumalty Memorial  
John and Anabel Konwiser  
Jeanna and Paul Kozak  
Kathy and Terry Lambert  
Donald and Barbara Leffler  
Wayne Leibel  
Heather Lewis  
Daniel and Becky Lieberman  
Robert and Lucy Lorenzen  
Daniel and Sandra Luechtefeld

Matson  
Robert Meyer and Kathleen Harner  
Denise and Scott Mitchell  
Mike Mitchell  
MJ Insurance  
Janet and Neil Murphy  
James Nafziger  
NASCAR  
Laurance and Barbara Nilsen  
Jon and Joan Nost  
David and Karen Paldan  
Kristin and Robert Peck  
Phil and Kim Petersen  
Rosemary L. Pierce  
Michele Pitzer  
Raya Robinson  
Steven and Pamela Rottas  
Ashley Rubio Levine  
Annie Santoro  
Carol and Randy Schilling  
Michelle C. Sharley  
Jennifer Sharlit  
Brian and Christine Smith  
Colleen Spakowski  
Cheri Speth  
Steve Mihaylo and  
Lois Mihaylo Foundation  
Norman and Millicent Stiefler  
Judith Swain  
Synergy: Mental Health &  
Wellness Integrated  
Susan and Ron Telesko  
Darla Telischuk  
Joseph Thomsen and Mary Kay Trollope  
Susan and Richard Turner  
Karukurichi and Debra Venkatesh  
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust  
Michael and Tatiana Walsh  
Judith Warnock and David Carroll  
Kimberly and Charles Warren  
Waymo  
WDM Architects P.A.  
Jacob and Jenna Wilkes  
Andrew and Andrea Will  
Drusilla Wylie  
William Zanzucchi  
The Zucker Girls

**\$2,500 TO \$4,999**

Academy of Mathematics &  
Science, Inc.  
Mary S. Alexander and  
Christopher M. McNichol  
Jean Andino  
Glenn and Becky Antoune  
Apollo Animal Hospital  
Arizona Avenue Animal Clinic  
Arkansas Zoological Foundation Inc  
Ashley Global Retail  
ASU Preparatory Academy  
Fred Atarian  
Lacretia and Robert Bacon

Baker Tilly  
Emery and Mary Ellen Bartle  
Arnold and Bonnie Belzil  
Connie and Lothaire Bluth  
Daryl Chester and Kenda L. vonHamm  
Frederick and Erika Chin  
Curt and Rhonda Church  
Chris Coduto and Venessa Garza  
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo  
William Corrigan and Shannon Warner  
Denny's  
Charles and Gail Rae Ehrler  
Elmwood Park Zoo  
Dee Epstein  
Ardie and Stephen Evans  
Glenn and Mary Beth Evans  
Monty and Angelica Everson  
Doreen Feldberg  
Chris and Jill Fischer  
Jennifer L. Flowers  
Jeanne Forbis and Rick Amend  
Michael and Susan Frank  
Daniel and Lorraine Frias  
Donna Gibson  
Margaret R. Hacker  
Darlene D. Hagan Family Trust  
Diane Harrison  
Have Done, LLC  
Trent Heidtke  
Michael Hockett  
Homes & Son Contractors  
Thomas and Genevieve Houlihan  
David and Wendy Howell  
Keith and Robin Johnson  
Catherine Keenan  
Barbara Kennedy  
Collin and Ellen Kennedy  
Rosie Kohne  
Jay Kramer and Jill Ormond  
Janine and Lale Kuhn  
Shayn Lancaster and Christopher Chu  
Pat Laskoski  
L'Auberge de Sedona  
Mary Anne Lefevre  
Jerry and Andrea Lewkowitz  
Curtis and Suzette Long  
Lookout Mountain Veterinary Clinic  
Sharon Lytle-Breen  
James Maetzold  
Chris and Stephanie Maloney  
Anita W. Martinez and Steven Crompton  
Paul and Amy Mescher  
Sandra Mohelnitzky  
Cindy Montgomery  
Dorothy L. Moomaw  
Neon Screens  
James and Roxana Nighswonger  
Northern Trust  
Peter and Sarah Novak  
Otto & Edna Neely Foundation  
Jeffrey and Martha Paulson  
Jody and Sanford Perl  
Rosemary Pomeroy  
Connie Pope  
David and Qin Puccio  
Emily and Ryan Pyeatt  
Wendi Reed  
Angela Reineccius

Richard C. Richardson, Jr.  
Christopher and Sheena Robbins  
Joe and Pauline Roesler  
Rolling Hills  
William and Sue Roman  
Gregory J. Scaven Family  
Thomas and Sophann Schleifer  
Larry and Debra Schmalz  
Penelope Schneck  
Darryl and Barbara Scott  
The Seeger Family  
Dave Seibert  
Susie and David Sherman  
Mary Stefaniak  
Ravi and Teresa Subramanian  
Sunburst Animal Hospital  
Target  
Tempe Camera  
Amberleigh Thetford  
Michael Toon  
Michael and Amber Troidl  
Michael Tucker  
Charles and Kimberly Tuomi  
Marsha B. Van Dam  
Steven and Diane Vaughn  
Jane C. Warren  
Lisa Wheeler  
Ashlyn and Kyle Willis  
Natalie Wood

**\$1,000 TO \$2,499**

8 Bit Aleworks  
A.T. Meridian Construction, LLC  
Patricia Abbott  
Bonnie Adler  
Bert and Jill Alanko  
Jennifer Albright  
Allied Global Marketing  
Thomas and Johnnie Ambrose  
Marni Anbar  
J. Christine Anderson  
Mary Anderson  
Jeff and Debbie Andrews  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Luisanna Arismendi and Tim Grein  
Arizona Community Foundation  
Arizona Pottery Online  
Thomas and Marcia Austin  
Carl and Suzie Baerst  
Judith Bailey  
Philip Barlow  
Kathy Bartholemy  
Paul and Jeannine Bartnicki  
Anthony and Carole Basile  
Robert Beach and Emilia Alcalá  
Bennett and Sharon Beaudry  
Matt and Lindsay Bedwell  
Ken and Gina Behringer  
Neil S. Berman  
Charles and Joan Berry  
Paul and Sandra Besso  
Daryl and Maryann Bethea  
Big Moose Studios Limited  
James and Connie Binns  
Michael and Dorothy Blaire  
Michael and Carmela Blank  
Darren Blue

# IN GRATITUDE

Bone Haus Brewing  
Charles and Sandra Bonstelle  
Scott and Joanna Booher  
Jeremy Bound  
Patrick Boyle  
Dave and Linda Boyne  
Roger and Roger Bradford  
Mark and Denise Brenneman  
Brei Brooks  
Frances and Duane Brown  
Louis Bucksbaum  
Tom and Maggie Burba  
Brian and Beverly Burch  
Debra Cady  
Janice Cameron  
Gary Cantwell  
CAPTRUST  
Wendi Castellanos and Jade Owen  
Charles Chavous  
Fred and Anne Christensen  
Joseph and Rose Circello  
Gina Clark  
Sidney and Charlotte Clark  
Wes and Julie Clelland III  
Autumn Codinha  
Rachel and Ryan Coffin  
Briana and Callum Colombo  
CorePath Wealth Partners, LLC  
Ted and Dianna Cosner  
Alex, Ben, Cristi, Dakota, and Emily Cost  
Carol L. Court  
Ben Craig and Juliette McCaffrey  
Dolores M. Crosby  
Libby Crouch  
Dallas Zoo  
Dee Darke  
Darryl Davis  
William and Kimberly Davis  
Ed and Beth Dawkins  
Cyndi Deboer  
Sarah Dela Cruz  
Patricia Delano  
John Denson and Chris Russell  
Desert Veterinary Medical Specialists  
Robert DeStasio  
Adam and Courtney Di Raffaele  
Robert and Lynne Dickerson  
Jeanne Doane  
Brad and Laura Donovan  
Jane Dowling  
Chad and Audrey Eberhard  
Craig and Pam Eisenberg  
Jon and Roslyn Engebretson  
Cindy Ensfield and Brian Waichunas  
Robert L. Espindola  
Regina Evans  
The Eyde Family  
Ray and Karen Eynon  
Susan M. Fagerstrom  
Evert and Dottie Farmer  
Peter and Patricia Faur  
Terry and Barbara Fenzl  
Justin Ferrera  
Brian and Dorothy Finn  
George and Ann Fisher  
Stephen and Nanci Fisher  
Rory and Tiffany Fleck  
Rhonda A. Fletcher  
Carrie Flood  
Alison Ford  
Drew and Jennifer Foster  
Four Peaks Brewing Company  
Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North  
Edward Z. Fox and Lynda J. Adams  
Lauren Frank  
Susan Frank  
Rose Frankfort  
The Fred Maytag Family Foundation  
Michael and Linde Freedley  
Kaylyn Funk  
Jacqueline Furman  
Mitchell and Aristeia Gadow  
Louanne Gagnon  
Ira J. Gaines and Cheryl J. Hintzen-Gaines  
Barbara Gant  
Linda H. Garrett  
Douglas and Laura Gaylor  
Edward and Christine Giebel  
Dennis and Kim Gilbert  
Karen Gildersleeve  
Bruce Gilleland  
Daniel Gillooley  
Kathleen Glin  
Sam and Kamber Goff  
Kristopher and Lynsey Goins  
Micki Gold  
Leona Goldfarb  
Patricia L. Gollum  
Alan and Natalie Gomez  
Lamber Goodnow  
Deborah and Scott Goodwin  
Deborah Gotlieb  
Grass Clippings  
Ronny Grenley  
Gerald and Jacque Griffith  
Debbie Gross  
Debra Grunwald  
Carla Hamilton and Shirley Burns  
David Hammerslag and Kirstin Johnson  
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Erik and Katie Hansen  
Kenneth and Frances Harder  
Marcus and Wendy Harmon  
Teresa Harvey  
Rachel J. Hawkinson  
Annette Heath - In Memorial  
David Hebard  
Kristen Hehr Keister and Dru Keister  
Mary Jo and Paul Helmick  
Anne and Bill Hemelt  
Sandra Hession  
Chris Hettlinger  
Higley Groves Animal Hospital  
Pat and David Hill  
Greg Hinton  
Caroline Hoeye  
Lynn Hoffman  
Patrick Hogan and Tiffany Moat-Hogan  
Gene and Patty Holmquist  
James L. Hope  
Horizon Animal Hospital  
Cheryl and Holly Hornyan  
Buren and Pam Howerton  
Autumn Hughes  
James Hughes  
Alta Hulfachor  
Patti Hussey  
Kim Hye  
Diane Ignatian  
Deborah Jackman  
Sandi and Jeff Jansen  
Nancy Jenkins  
Marylou and John Jennings  
Gregory and Pam Johnloz  
Eric and Keeley Johnson  
Juli Johnson  
Jones Family  
Enos and Margaret Jordan  
JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
Matthew and Karen Kaplan  
Penny Keller  
Kristi Kellogg  
Ashley Kibel and Jonathan Hunt  
Michael L. Kitchen  
Sheri Klein  
Bruce and Eleanor Knappenberger  
Justin and Heather Kniep  
Janeen Knochenhauer  
Luke Knorra  
Cynthia Kooima  
Jessica Kostyun  
Michelle Kowalsky  
Michelle Krajewski  
James Krombholz and Brian Waichunas  
Christen Ladeaux and Cyndi Pearson  
Bruce Lancaster  
James Lance  
Lee Lander and Katrina Chen  
LaneTerralever  
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Amber and Douglas Larussa  
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Martin and Mary Lorch  
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Brenda Maupin  
Robert and Michelle Mawk  
Debi Maxwell  
Staci Mayer and Will Friese  
Frederick and Beverly Maytag

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Lori McClelland  
Ronald and Marjorie McComb  
Jennifer McCutcheon Rivera and  
Jaime Rivera  
Walker and Martha McDowell  
William McMillen  
Medtronic  
Mark and Ann Mehrrens  
Dawn Meidinger  
Kim Meighan  
Ron and Daniele Mercer  
Carrie Janell Miller  
Tatum and Arthur Miller  
Robert Milligan  
Steven and Peggy Minard  
Saundra Minckley  
Tom and Carole Minor  
Cory and Gita Mishkin  
Subir and Heather Mitra  
Rich and Sharon Mogull  
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Amanda and Shawn Montag  
Mateo and Joronda Montaño  
Amanda and Seth Montgomery  
Gina Montion Sharples  
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Nicole Moss  
Lynda Murdock  
Holly and John Murphy  
Sean and Christina Murphy  
Trudy Murray  
Karen Nackard  
Cathy Nagelhout  
Bruce and Eileen Nally  
Natalie's Orchard Island Juice Company  
Cindy and John Nathern  
Geoffrey and Sharon Ndeto  
Steve Neely  
Jeffrey Nemecek  
Allen and Pam Nogee  
Patricia Nolan  
Michael and Jeni O'Callaghan  
Dennis and Katherine O'Connor  
Patrick and Karen O'leary  
Bob and Rosemarie Orlick  
David and Joann Ott  
Chad and Elizabeth Palmer  
Diane Parkins  
Skip and Jan Paschke  
Jan Patten  
Edward Patterson  
Jordan Patterson  
David C. Paul  
Payden & Rygel  
Jody Pelusi  
Amanda Petersen  
Julie and Michael Petteys  
Nicole Phelps  
David and Pamela Plumb  
Robert and Sherry Pobiegló  
The Post Family  
John and Michele Potts  
Luann and Craig Price  
Jenna Pursley  
Teresa and Mark Quale  
Michael and Stephanie Quick

J. William Quigley  
Jonathan Quinn  
Robin Quinn  
Renee Ragland  
William and Diane Raleigh  
Nayan Ranchhod and Jenny Abbey  
Dennis and Sheila Randall  
K. Deane and Pamela Reade  
Ryne Reed  
Jen Reitmeier  
Justin Rekasi and Andrea Dickson-Rekasi  
Christina Reuss  
Dallas Rextrew and Lyndsey Whitted  
Amanda and Wesley Reynolds  
Nancy Richards  
Bruce Richmond and Katherine Andary  
Ronald and Barbara Rinfret  
Patrick and Dawn Rissi  
Stephen Ritchie  
Road Runner Sports  
Henry and Stephanie Roldan  
Joelle Romo  
Steve and Merle Roskam  
Michael and Lia Rowland  
Royal Palms Resort and Spa  
Lana Ruch  
Christy Rucker  
John and Susanne Rudolph  
Lindsey Rushing  
David and Jenni Ryon  
Salt River Veterinary Specialists  
Beatrice Sanderson  
Rachel and Mike Sandoval  
Mike and Emily Santellanes  
Hester Sargent  
Frank and Cindy Saverino  
Elissa Scannell  
Don and Marla Schilling  
Glenda Schillinger  
Tighe and Megan Schlottog  
Daniel Scholz  
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Jurgen Schumacher  
Richard and Christy Schust  
Tracy Schwalm  
Bruce and Sheila Schwartz  
Calvin and Vicki Scott  
Anand Shah  
Mark and Debra Sheck  
Jane Sheehan  
Morgan Sheets  
Asiade Shull  
Jon and Michele Simmons  
Rob and Lori Simonson  
Steven and Maria Simpson  
Marcy and Mark Singerman  
Kurt Slobodzian and Patricia Weegar  
Lawrence E. Smith  
Marilyne Smith  
Mark and Bonita Smith  
Maureen Smyth-Harrison and  
Arthur Snyder  
Sean Snyder  
Joan Soubie  
Dolores Stanton  
Katie Stewart

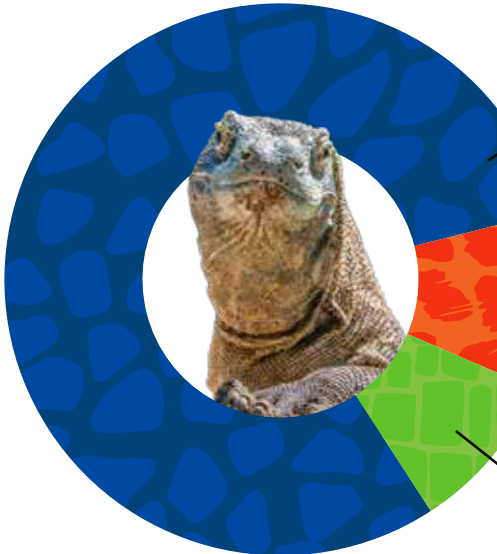
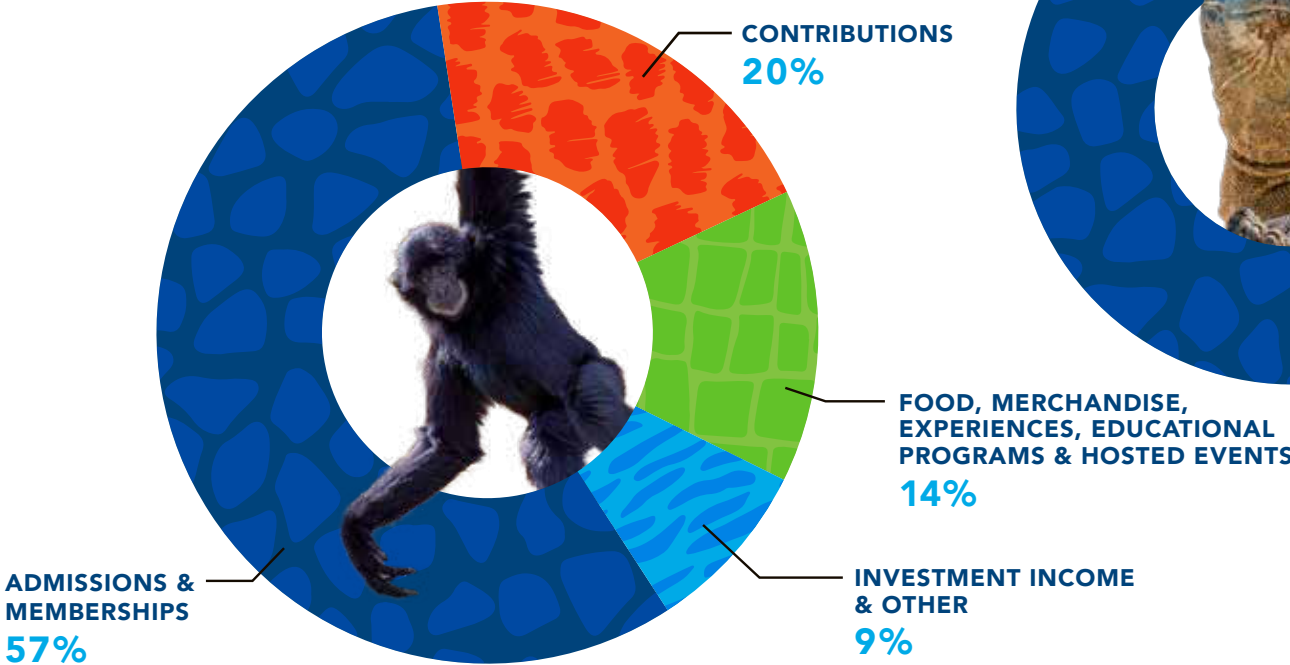
Andrea Stroud  
Shannon Tevis  
David and Ellie Thibault  
Martha and Greg Thomas  
Matthew Thomas and Sergio Ruiz  
Steven Thompson  
Thurston Charitable Foundation  
Tom and Ann Timmer  
Tony and Judith Tourville  
Rick and Jennifer Touton  
Tara Travis  
Jeffrey and Joan Trevas  
William and Natalie Truett  
Susan M. Turner  
Lauren and Jon Ulrich  
US Bank Foundation  
Valley of the Sun Arabian  
Horse Association  
The Van Duyne Family  
Kyle and Stephanie Vaden Bosch  
Avinash Varna  
Linda Vaughan  
VCA University Animal Hospital, PLLC  
Braulio and Rebecca Velazquez  
Amber Wildermuth  
Connie Waite  
Voni Walker  
Amanda Warner  
Everett & Elaine Warner Fund  
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Howard Whipple  
Debbi White  
Bryan and Jamie Whitlock  
Keith and Florence Wibel  
Jeanne Wilcox  
Wildest Club In Town  
Desmond Wilson  
Jamie Wilson  
Richard Wilson  
James J. Wojcik  
Nate and Carmen Wolfe  
Wayne and Ginger Worden  
Preston York  
The Ziemba Family  
Nicole Ziemba

All supporters as of December 31, 2024. The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation regrets the omission of any names. Please inform the Donor Relations Department at 602.914.4338 if this has occurred so our records can be updated.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

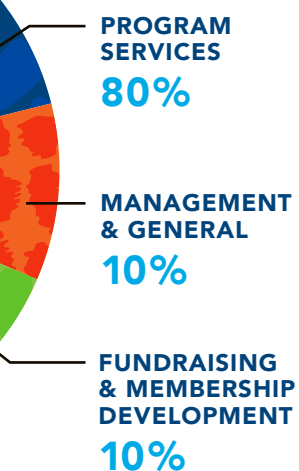
FY2024 EXPENSES  
\$43.3 MILLION

FY2024 REVENUES  
\$51.7 MILLION





# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



|                                      | For the year ended<br>June 30, 2024 | For the year ended<br>June 30, 2023 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>           |                                     |                                     |
| Admissions & Memberships             | \$ 29,329,719                       | \$ 28,725,162                       |
| Educational Programs                 | 713,344                             | 610,310                             |
| Group Services                       | 1,893,542                           | 1,713,900                           |
| Food & Retail                        | 4,797,393                           | 5,016,175                           |
| Contributions **                     | 10,559,538                          | 9,840,361                           |
| Investment Income/(Loss)             | 4,069,013                           | 2,537,746                           |
| Other                                | 326,526                             | 35,850                              |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>     | <b>\$ 51,689,075</b>                | <b>\$ 48,479,504</b>                |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                      |                                     |                                     |
| Program Services                     | \$ 34,714,822                       | \$ 31,096,544                       |
| Management & General                 | 4,485,405                           | 3,596,791                           |
| Fundraising & Membership Development | 4,054,439                           | 3,543,600                           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                | <b>\$ 43,254,666</b>                | <b>\$ 38,236,935</b>                |
| <b>Change in Net Assets</b>          | <b>\$ 8,434,409</b>                 | <b>\$ 10,242,569</b>                |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b> Beginning of Year  | \$ 90,738,722                       | \$ 80,496,153                       |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b> End of Year        | <b>\$ 99,173,131</b>                | <b>\$ 90,738,722</b>                |

\*\* Includes revenue with donor restrictions prior to release for Capital Campaign and other projects of \$8,129,116 for 2024 and \$8,255,003 for 2023.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

|   | June 30, 2024         | June 30, 2023         |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                       |                       |                       |
| Current Assets                                      |                       |                       |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents                             | \$ 5,055,671          | \$ 14,128,938         |
| Treasury bills, short-term                          | 31,615,111            | 20,202,057            |
| Contributions Receivable                            | 727,240               | 101,516               |
| Other Current Assets                                | 1,224,875             | 610,896               |
| Other Assets  |                       |                       |
| Investments   | 4,087,009             | 4,023,025             |
| Endowments  | 13,086,094            | 10,911,205            |
| Assets restricted for long-term purposes            |                       |                       |
| Cash  | 5,072,631             | 5,784,889             |
| Contributions Receivable                            | 2,506,875             | 1,673,627             |
| Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets                 | 281,661               | 355,042               |
| Property & Equipment, net                           | 41,815,254            | 37,607,746            |
| Beneficial Interest in Trusts                       | 5,660,567             | 5,363,696             |
| Other Assets  | 34,222                | 31,222                |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                 | <b>\$ 111,167,210</b> | <b>\$ 100,793,859</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                  |                       |                       |
| Current Liabilities                                 |                       |                       |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses                 | \$ 6,447,676          | \$ 4,312,898          |
| Deferred Revenue                                    | 5,259,501             | 5,387,427             |
| Current portion of operating lease liabilities      | 65,934                | 68,174                |
| Operating Lease Liabilities, Net of Current Portion | 220,968               | 286,638               |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                            | <b>\$ 11,994,079</b>  | <b>\$ 10,055,137</b>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                   |                       |                       |
| Without donor restrictions                          | \$ 79,201,232         | \$ 67,663,609         |
| With donor restrictions                             | 19,971,899            | 23,075,113            |
| Total Net Assets                                    | 99,173,131            | 90,738,722            |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>           | <b>\$ 111,167,210</b> | <b>\$ 100,793,859</b> |



# LEADERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Norberto J. (Bert) Castro**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

**RoAnne Edick**  
Executive Assistant

**Ruth Allard**  
Senior Vice President of Conservation  
Science, Learning & Engagement

**Lorraine Frias**  
Senior Vice President of  
Institutional Advancement

**Linda Hardwick**  
Vice President of Marketing,  
Communications & Events

**Dave Loncala**  
Vice President of Finance & Accounting

**Christine Lowery-Nunez**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Bonnie Mendoza**  
Chief Operating Officer/Chief  
Financial Officer

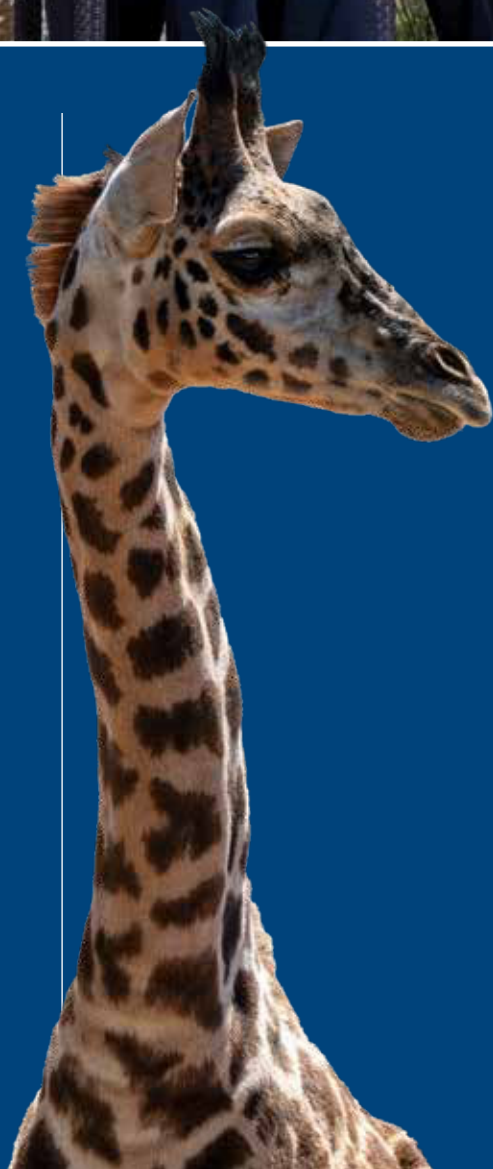
**Dr. Gary West, DVM**  
Senior Vice President of Animal Health  
& Living Collections

**Joe Wilkes**  
Senior Vice President of Facilities  
& Construction

**Jeremy Bound**  
Director of Information Technology

**Bill Davis**  
Director of Operations

**Carrie Flood**  
Director of Learning & Engagement





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Drew Foster

Director of Living Collections

### Dr. Tara Harris

Director of Conservation & Science

### Harry Jones

Director of Project Management  
& Purchasing

### Christopher Ramos

Director of Events & Group Sales

### Billy Reed

Director of Guest Services,  
Member Relations & Retail

### Steve Roberson

Director of Park Services

### OFFICERS

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Board Chair

#### Maja Wessels

Immediate Past  
Board Chair

#### Yvonne A. Betts

Chair Governance  
& Nominating

#### Julie Gable

Chair Strategic  
Outcomes

#### Linda Hayes

Chair Development

#### Gabrielle Vitale

Chair Finance,  
Audit & Treasurer

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#### Brian Baehr

#### Marty Barrett

#### Jean C. Bingham

#### Michael Blaire

#### Richard B. Burnham

#### Avery Crossman

#### JoEllen Doornbos

#### Doreen Feldberg

#### Stephen Fisher, DVM

Trustee Emeritus

#### Kristin Hartman

#### Steve Higgins

Trustee Emeritus

#### David Kohne

#### Rob Mawk

#### Dawn Meidinger

#### John C. Norling

#### Stephen M. Ochoa

#### Harry Papp

Trustee Emeritus

#### Phil Petersen

Trustee Emeritus

#### Jim Pratt

#### Susie Sherman, DVM

#### Michael Tucker

#### Desmond Wilson

## 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.**

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

