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PHOENIX ZOO TRANSFORMING BUILDING INTO BEAUTIFUL ART GALLERY

Wild Side Gallery to Debut with Renowned Exhibition of "Between River and Rim: Hiking Across the Grand Canyon"

PHOENIX (January 7, 2023) - The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation (ACNC)/Phoenix Zoo is excited to debut their new Wild Side Gallery by welcoming the renowned National Geographic exhibit in collaboration with the Grand Canyon Trust; Between River and Rim: Hiking Across the Grand Canyon.

Thursday, February 2, 2023, from 5 – 8 p.m., Pete McBride, photographer and filmmaker along with Kevin Fedarko, author of the Emerald Mile, will share their journey of nearly 800 trail-less miles through the heart of the Grand Canyon. Their presentation was featured in National Geographic magazine as well as a national tour of the National Geographic LIVE series. McBride and Fedarko will highlight the beauty of the Canyon and the threats they discovered along the way.

The ticketed event will begin at 5 p.m. with a presentation in the Zoo's Doornbos Wildlife Amphitheater and book signings to follow at the Wild Side Gallery, featuring Pete McBride's stunning photography exhibit from the adventure. There will also be a ribbon cutting celebration related to the opening of the Gallery. Tickets to this exclusive evening event may be purchased for $50 here.

The Zoo is renovating its 1970s Activity Center into a visionary new venue, the Wild Side Gallery. A classic building originally designed by famed Valley architect William Cartmell, the Wild Side Gallery honors a mid-century modern style and will showcase artwork in over 2,400 square feet of climate-controlled space. The new space will also serve as the Zoo's first dedicated venue to the rotating exhibits of Art on the Wild Side, a program focused on inspiration, celebration and conservation through art. The Zoo currently exhibits artwork in the Savanna Gallery/Grill and will continue to do so.

“The new space has long been utilized at the Zoo for a variety of purposes, originally built as an education center but most recently used for behind-the-scenes workspace,” says President and CEO, Bert Castro. “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.”

Entry to the Wild Side Gallery will be included with general daytime admission or Zoo membership starting February. The Gallery is located just inside the Zoo’s main entrance within the Arizona Trail and will be open Thursday – Sunday from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. More hours will be added in time.

The transformation of the building is just the first phase of the project as there are plans to restore the original north façade of the building after decades old add-ons were built.

MEDIA MATERIAL: Photos are available via this Dropbox link:
Exhibition images:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/99t55g5kby2i3t2jl6ckt/h?dl=0&rlkey=frd4trjoxamucyzympdt3vgrp
Building remodel in progress. Photos and video coming soon.

About the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation
The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation operates the Phoenix Zoo. The ACNC 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.

The Phoenix Zoo is the only zoo in the Valley accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is a non-profit zoological park, serving 1.4 million guests annually. The Zoo is home to more than 3,000 animals, many of which are endangered and threatened species. For information on upcoming events, exhibits and activities at the Phoenix Zoo, visit www.phoenixzoo.org.

About the Grand Canyon Trust

The Grand Canyon Trust has been a leading voice in regional conservation for more than 35 years with a mission to safeguard the wonders of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau, while supporting the rights of its Native peoples. From improving air quality around the Grand Canyon to helping win national monument protections in southern Utah, the Trust works tirelessly to protect the Colorado Plateau’s remarkable landscapes. Learn more at grandcanyontrust.org.