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## Comics and Conservation Collide in the Phoenix Zoo's Newest Wild Side Gallery Art Exhibit

**PHOENIX** (August 11, 2025) - The Phoenix Zoo's Wild Side Gallery is thrilled to announce its next dynamic exhibit: Comic Conservation, opening September 4, 2025, and running through January 25, 2026. This one-of-a-kind exhibit fuses the colorful world of comic art with the inspiring mission of wildlife conservation.

Comic Conservation features original works from a diverse lineup of acclaimed comic artists from the Southwest and beyond. With a mix of superhero-themed pieces, animal-inspired illustrations and imaginative storytelling, this exhibit celebrates the natural world through the lens of pop culture.

Several high-profile names in the comic industry will be among the featured artists – including talented creators like Jay Fotos, Mark Kidwell, Meredith McClaren, Ryan Huna Smith, Jeff Pina, Hanna Strauss and many more whose dynamic and expressive work brings this theme to life.

The Zoo is also thrilled to include a special contribution from legendary comic book creator Todd McFarlane – creator of *Spawn*, co-creator of *Venom* and one of the most iconic *Spider-Man* artists of all time. A signed print by McFarlane will be on display in the Gallery as part of the exhibition.

"Comics are a powerful and widely loved art form," says Bert Castro, President & CEO of the Phoenix Zoo. "Their visual storytelling and pop culture appeal make them an engaging and effective way to bring conservation messaging to the masses in a fun, approachable way. We're thrilled and honored to showcase such amazing artwork in our Wild Side Gallery."

The Comic Conservation art exhibit will be open Thursday through Sundays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. located inside the Phoenix Zoo's Wild Side Gallery. The Gallery is included with general admission.

Special Event – October 4, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

To celebrate the launch of Comic Conservation, the Phoenix Zoo will host a can't-miss event this fall featuring:

- Fun and educational activities and games
- Character mascot meet & greets
- Artist meet & greets
- And a HUGE special guest appearance (stay tuned... we can't say who just yet).

For more information, visit: [phoenixzoo.org/events/comic-conservation](https://www.phoenixzoo.org/events/comic-conservation)

**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](https://www.phoenixzoo.org).