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Legendary Comic Creator Todd McFarlane Coming to the Phoenix Zoo for Special Comic Conservation Event on October 4

PHOENIX (September 23, 2025) – The Phoenix Zoo is thrilled to announce world-renowned comic book artist, writer and entrepreneur Todd McFarlane will be appearing at the Zoo on Saturday, October 4 as part of the Comic Conservation celebration – a dynamic event inspired by the Zoo's latest Wild Side Gallery art exhibition.

The Comic Conservation event runs from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and is included with general Zoo admission. In addition to exploring the gallery and engaging with numerous talented artists from across the Southwest, guests will have the rare opportunity to attend two unique, ticketed events featuring Todd McFarlane – a visionary known for revolutionizing both the comic book and action figure industries

CHILDREN FOCUSED “WILD DRAWINGS” EVENT – 10 a.m. | Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater
Geared toward kids and young fans, this exciting \$10 ticketed experience will feature McFarlane sharing behind-the-scenes stories, demonstrating basic drawing techniques and offering advice for budding creators. Whether you're just getting started or dreaming up your own superhero universe, this is a can't-miss opportunity to learn from one of the most influential figures in the industry.

AUTOGRAPH SESSION – 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | C.W. Modene Neely Events & Education Center
McFarlane will also host a separate ticketed autograph session for fans to get up close with a true icon. Each ticket holder may bring one item per person to be signed. Please note: no photos will be permitted during the autograph session. Ticket price for this experience is \$10.

Tickets for Zoo entry, as well as the add-ons of “Wild Drawings” and the Autograph Session are available now at <https://www.phoenixzoo.org/events/comic-conservation/>.

A FULL LINEUP OF TALENTED ARTISTS

Alongside McFarlane's appearance, the Zoo will feature a full roster of incredible comic artists participating in the event, many of whom are featured in the Comic Conservation exhibition. These creators will be set up throughout the Zoo offering meet & greets, autographs, merchandise and more. Artists onsite on event day include Hanna Strauss, Victor Irizarry, Danny Ross, Sophia Cox and many others – all bringing their own creative interpretations of nature, wildlife and conservation to life.

“To have someone of Todd McFarlane’s stature join us for Comic Conservation is an extraordinary honor,” said Bert Castro, President & CEO of the Phoenix Zoo. “Todd’s influence in the comic world is unmatched, and pairing his passion for creativity with our commitment to conservation is a truly powerful blend. This event represents a unique way to engage new audiences in both wildlife and art – two things that inspire wonder, imagination and change.”

About Todd McFarlane

Todd McFarlane is a visionary comic book artist, writer, and entrepreneur known for reshaping the comic and toy industries. Rising to fame through his groundbreaking work on *The Amazing Spider-Man* at Marvel, McFarlane later co-founded Image Comics and created the iconic antihero Spawn, which shattered sales records. His influence has extended far beyond the page, leaving a lasting mark on popular culture.

The Comic Conservation art exhibition runs September 4, 2025 – January 25, 2026, and is included with general Zoo admission. It’s on display inside the Phoenix Zoo’s Wild Side Gallery and features original artwork celebrating wildlife, animals and conservation – all through the vibrant lens of comic storytelling.

Tickets for Todd McFarlane's special sessions and more information at <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.