

2023 Annual Report



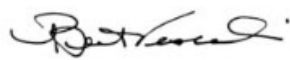
As one of the city's oldest and most beloved gathering places, Denver Zoo understands that our role is not only to connect humans with the wonders of wildlife—but also to serve as an enduring cornerstone for the communities we serve. Realizing our mission, *Inspiring Communities to Save Wildlife for Future Generations*, is only possible when we are deeply engaged with the people around us.



Providing a warm welcome has always been second nature here at the Zoo. In 2023 alone, we ushered smiling faces through our gates and received a host of beautiful new babies and arriving animals. Last year we became the first Zoo in Colorado to earn the Certified Autism Center™ distinction and provided guests with free or discounted admission via Free Days, SNAP, EBT and other Community Connections Equitable Access Programs. Our guests feel like they belong here...because they do.

What we've come to understand, though, is that belonging begins within. That's why 2023 saw the creation of an ambitious new department wholly dedicated to building and embodying our vision of an even more accessible and inclusive future.

Scroll on to see how Denver Zoo and our community served one another in 2023.



Bert Vescolani | President and CEO



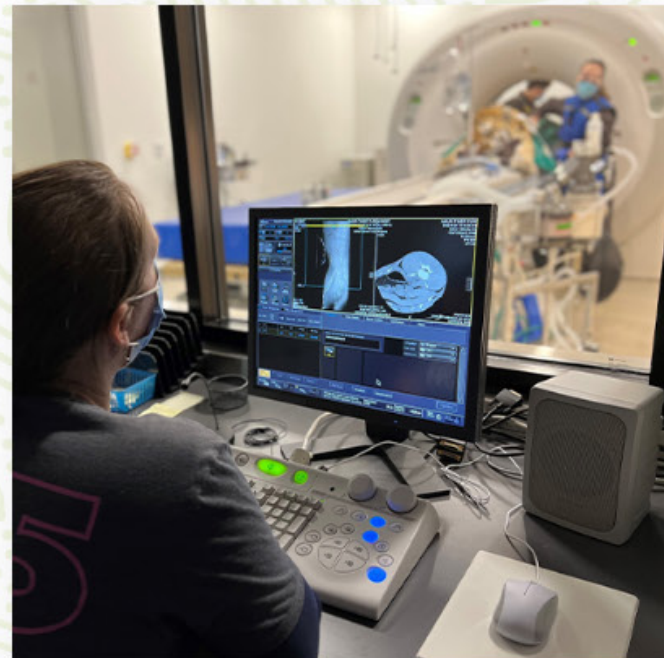
ACCREDITATION AWARDED

In September, Denver Zoo again received accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums—setting us apart as one of only 238 institutions in the world to meet the highest standards of animal care, veterinary medicine, conservation, education and more.



CERTIFIED AUTISM CENTER

In March, Denver Zoo became the first zoo in Colorado to earn The Certified Autism Center designation from The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. We're proud to be creating a more welcoming, inclusive and accessible zoo.



ANIMAL HOSPITAL AWARD

The 22,000-sq.-ft. Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Animal Hospital was honored by The Association of Zoos and Aquariums with a 2023 significant achievement in facilities award! Our state-of-the-art hospital was made possible by the 2017 GO Bond as well as our donor family.

“A truly welcoming workplace is built with intentionality. So, while our new Belonging Division is grounded in principles centered on inclusive leadership, community, accountability and cultural humility, it will ultimately be rooted in our shared humanity as a collection of individuals with a boundless spectrum of perspectives and lived experiences. It is my honor to walk with them on this journey.”

—Elkin Alfred, SVP Of Belonging

WILD WELCOME: 2023 BABY BOOM

Every baby born at Denver Zoo is adorable—but our littlest wild ones are even more precious when they're the result of a Species Survival Plan partnership. As an AZA-accredited institution, we work with accredited zoos around the country to maintain healthy, genetically diverse populations of the species under our care.



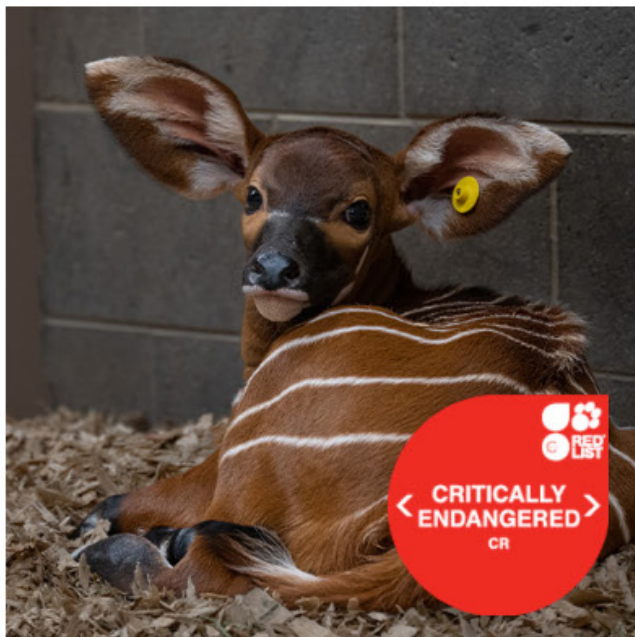
Wicket
Linne's Two-Toed Sloth



Siska
Sumatran Orangutan



Rocket + Slinky
Asian Small-Clawed Otters



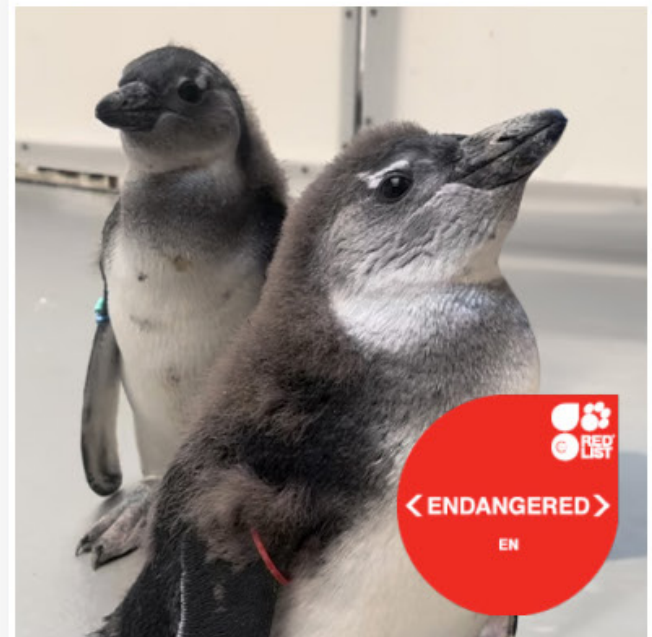
Fiddle
Eastern Mountain Bongo

Well, fiddle-dee-dee: every eastern mountain bongo birth at Denver Zoo is a victory for this Critically Endangered species!



Zola
Mandrill

Swing by Primate Panorama to say hello to Zola and the rest of our colorful mandrill troop!



Marcus + Steppy
African Penguins

Our two newest Critically Endangered African penguin chicks, Marcus and Steppy, have waddled right into our hearts.



Nazca
Humboldt Penguin



Michelangelo
Sulawesi Forest Turtle

Grand Openings



FLAMINGO HABITAT

Opened November 2023

Inspired by the stark landscapes of the Andean Highlands, our flock's new strutting grounds features a shady, circulated lagoon, a dedicated nesting area and space for guest encounters.



GORILLA TREK

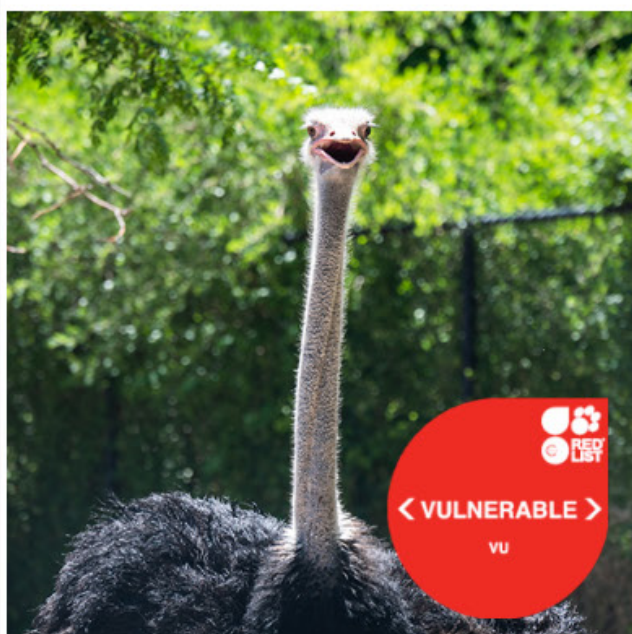
Opened October 2023

This realistic virtual reality experience puts you in the heart of African jungle with a real troop of Critically Endangered mountain gorillas—from adorable infants to intimidating silverbacks.

Welcome Wagon: 2023 New Arrivals



Viktor
Amur Tiger



Dusty
Common Ostrich



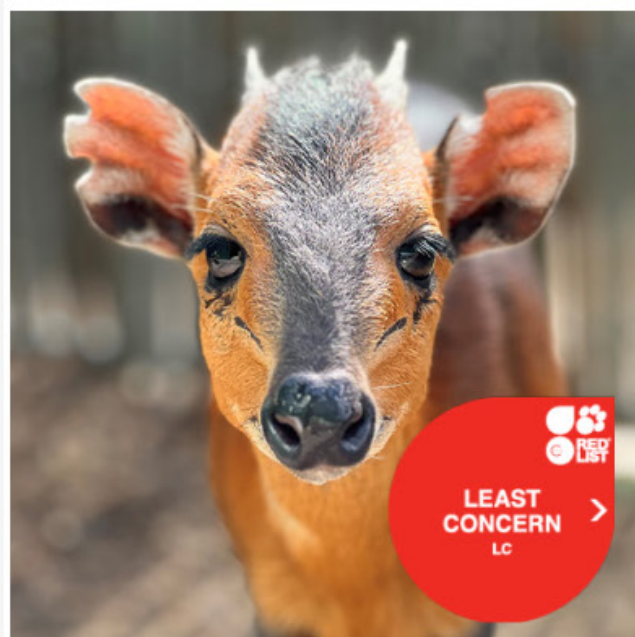
Duncan
Asian Elephant



Lightfoot, Divine, Takeoff + Chandler
Chilean Flamingos



Bruno + Banshee
American Alligators (Albino)



Chicken + Biscuit
Red-Flanked Duikers

[New Arrivals Continued]



Chlojo
Sumatran Tiger

Beautiful [Chlojo the Sumatran tiger](#) is an ambassador for her species, which we're also working to protect in the wild.



Tristan + Pearl
Matschie's Tree Kangaroo

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

Into the Great Wild Open

In late 2023, Denver Zoo launched the final phase of our "into the great wild open" campaign, with a goal of \$75m. With the help of our donors, we are working to ensure that our zoo is a more engaging, interactive, long-lasting + devoted place for all.

[Learn More](#)



Colorado Gives Day

From durable toys for our hard-playing pachyderms to a sky-high home for our new tree kangaroos, our donors came out in droves for Colorado Gives Day. Our CGD '23 efforts raised \$265k+ in support the Denver Zoo's world-class care and award-winning habitats.



Flock Party

Our fourth annual flock party was our most brilliant benefit to date! The colorful event, which raised nearly \$500k for Denver Zoo, hosted more than 2,000 guests and featured live music and fashion illustrations, an animal artwork auction, artisan eats + much more.

[Learn More](#)



ACCESS + APPRECIATION: 2023 MILESTONES

“Welcoming” is a Denver Zoo core value—one which we strive to live every day. We are proud to be educating the next generation of wildlife advocates with \$2.8M in scholarships given to 480,000 students. And, since 2020, two million guests have enjoyed free or reduced admission with scholarships and other discount programs.

2023

JANUARY 6, 2023



Welcoming 2023 with our first of **7 Free Days**—serving a total of 32,697 guests

FEBRUARY 11, 2023



We celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science by awarding six **Women in Conservation Scholarships** of \$5,000 each

MARCH 2, 2023



MARCH 16, 2023



MARCH 2, 2023



Lakota artist Danielle SeeWalker honors Quill the porcupine with [traditional quillwork](#)

We celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science by awarding six [Women in Conservation Scholarships](#) of \$5,000 each

MARCH 16, 2023



Denver Zoo [donates 35 American bison](#) to local Native American tribes

MARCH 22, 2023



[Completion of Predator Ridge Pathway](#) Project (2021 RISE Denver GO Bond)

APRIL 29, 2023



Denver Zoo [hosts third annual Día del Niño](#): Celebrating All Children event

MAY 6, 2023



Denver Zoo hosts second annual [Asian American and Pacific Islander+ Festival](#)

JUNE 1, 2023

JULY 1, 2023



JUNE 1, 2023



JULY 1, 2023



All summer long: our Community Engagement Team connects the community with the wonders of wildlife



We co-host annual Black Birders event, in partnership with Women's Wilderness

AUGUST 1, 2023



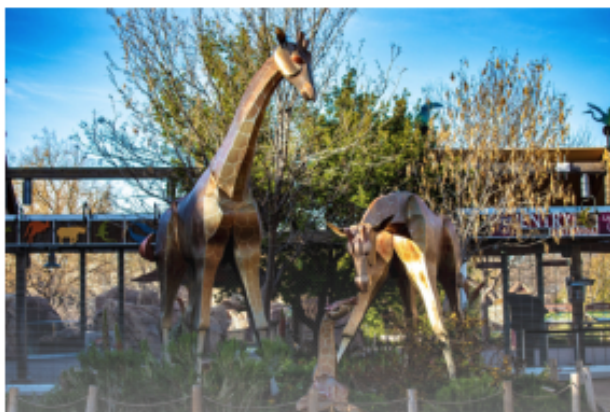
We offer 50% off admission + memberships for Colorado Day and Celebrate Colorado

JULY 4, 2023



Denver Zoo volunteers provide 12 free tours for 41 active and former U.S. service members

NOVEMBER 4, 2023



In honor of Military Appreciation week, we offer free daytime admission to active, veteran and retired military personnel + their families

OCTOBER 21, 2023



In observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month and Día de los Muertos, we host an ofrenda built by local artist

OCTOBER 21, 2023



In honor of [Military Appreciation week](#), we offer free daytime admission to active, veteran and retired military personnel + their families



In observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month and Día de los Muertos, we host an [ofrenda](#) built by local artist

DECEMBER 31, 2023



Zoo Lights: [Low-Sensory Night](#) welcomes people with sensory processing disorders

On the Horizon

In 2023, we began planning and construction on two incredible new exhibits, continuing our tireless quest for excellence in both animal care and guest experience.



DOWN UNDER *Opening in 2024*

With Wallaby Way, an immersive pathway experience offering an up-close look at two of Australia's most charismatic species, Down Under is our most ambitious project in years.



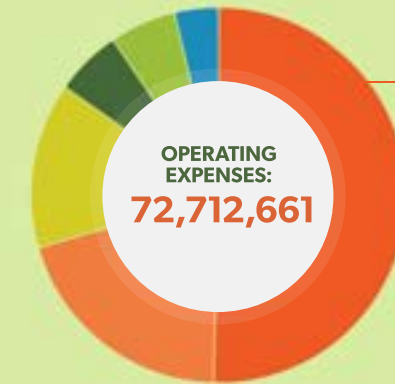
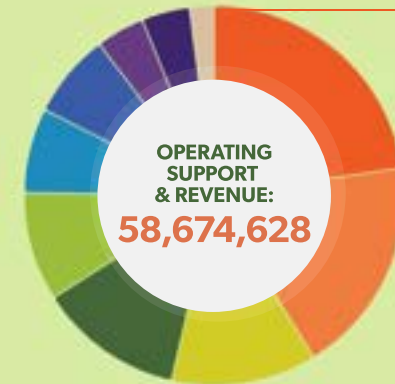
SEA LION HABITAT *Opening in 2025*

New beaches for frolicking, new docks for floating, a clearer window to wonder and a stronger conservation story to tell—there's so much for our California sea lions to look forward to!



2023 Year End Statement of Activities

	DENVER ZOO			CO ZOOLOGICAL TRUST			2022 TOTAL
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	
SUPPORT & REVENUE							
Admission revenue	\$11,235,765	\$-	\$11,235,765	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$11,235,765
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District revenue	12,212,353	-	12,212,353	-	-	-	12,212,353
Memberships	7,400,564	-	7,400,564	-	-	-	7,400,564
Concessions commission	5,520,865	-	5,520,865	-	-	-	5,520,865
Donations, gifts and grants	3,019,850	486,135	3,505,985	3,118,011	107,619	3,225,630	6,731,615
Sponsorships and corporate events	3,483,363	-	3,483,363	-	-	-	3,483,363
Zoo Lights	4,775,970	-	4,775,970	-	-	-	4,775,970
City and County of Denver support	2,322,395	-	2,322,395	-	-	-	2,322,395
Learning experiences revenue	921,205	-	921,205	-	-	-	921,205
Attractions and Other	1,935,007	-	1,935,007	-	-	-	1,935,007
Fundraising events, net	425,673	-	425,673	-	-	-	425,673
COVID-19 government relief funding	1,709,853	-	1,709,853	-	-	-	1,709,853
Transfer from CZT to Denver Zoo	997,880	574,378	1,572,258	(1,572,258)	-	(1,572,258)	-
Net assets released from restrictions	5,441,464	(5,441,464)	-	1,408,707	(1,408,707)	-	-
Total revenue, gains, and other support	61,402,207	(4,380,951)	57,021,256	2,954,460	(1,301,088)	1,653,372	58,674,628
EXPENSES							
Program expenses:							
Life sciences	25,801,366	-	25,801,366	-	-	-	25,801,366
Guest experiences	8,085,406	-	8,085,406	-	-	-	8,085,406
Learning experiences	3,699,110	-	3,699,110	-	-	-	3,699,110
Field conservation	1,982,233	-	1,982,233	-	-	-	1,982,233
Total program expenses	39,568,115	-	39,568,115	-	-	-	39,568,115
Support services:							
Management and general	8,362,975	-	8,362,975	191,914	-	191,914	8,554,889
Fundraising	3,071,242	-	3,071,242	-	-	-	3,071,242
Total support services	11,434,217	-	11,434,217	191,914	-	191,914	11,626,131
Total expenses	51,002,332	-	51,002,332	191,914	-	191,914	51,194,246
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NONOPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	10,399,875	(4,380,951)	6,018,924	2,762,546	(1,301,088)	1,461,458	7,480,382
NONOPERATING INCOME (LOSS)							
Capital campaign contributions	-	1,819,191	1,819,191	-	-	-	1,819,191
Bond proceeds	2,180,910	-	2,180,910	-	-	-	2,180,910
Investment return	1,395,861	-	1,395,861	2,533,832	1,796,543	4,330,375	5,726,236
Master Plan design and construction costs	(21,518,415)	-	(21,518,415)	-	-	-	(21,518,415)
Total nonoperating income (loss)	(17,941,644)	1,819,191	(16,122,453)	2,533,832	1,796,543	4,330,375	(11,792,078)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(7,541,769)	(2,561,760)	(10,103,529)	5,296,378	495,455	5,791,833	(4,311,696)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	31,777,376	7,575,322	39,352,698	12,603,406	10,538,211	23,141,617	62,494,315
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	24,235,607	5,013,562	29,249,169	17,899,784	11,033,666	28,933,450	58,182,619



* All percentages are rounded to a whole number