

# 2021 Annual Report.



**DENVER ZOO**

1896 **125** 2021  
years of love.



125.

— A letter from Bert Vescolani

## Evolution in action.

IF WE'VE LEARNED ANYTHING from our beloved wild residents over the past 125 years, it's that evolution isn't always comfortable—but it is always essential. With this in mind, Denver Zoo welcomed growth in a multitude of ways in 2021, with milestones of **celebration** (125 Years of Love), **embarkation** (implementing our [Strategic Plan](#)) and even **organization**, as we restructured our Conservation and Education departments to better align with our mission.

We continued to enhance both animal welfare and guest experience with three significant new offerings, including an industry-leading animal hospital and authentic new habitats for our African penguins and Linne's two-toed sloths. And, with the approval of the RISE Denver GO Bond, we began to chart a course for critical ADA improvements to our pathways and lighting.

We did all this while enchanting more than 1 million guests during a year of worldwide recovery, and while refocusing our energies on the central passion of everyone in this organization: a duty to protect wildlife and wild places. Here's where our ongoing evolution took us in 2021.



Bert Vescolani | President and CEO

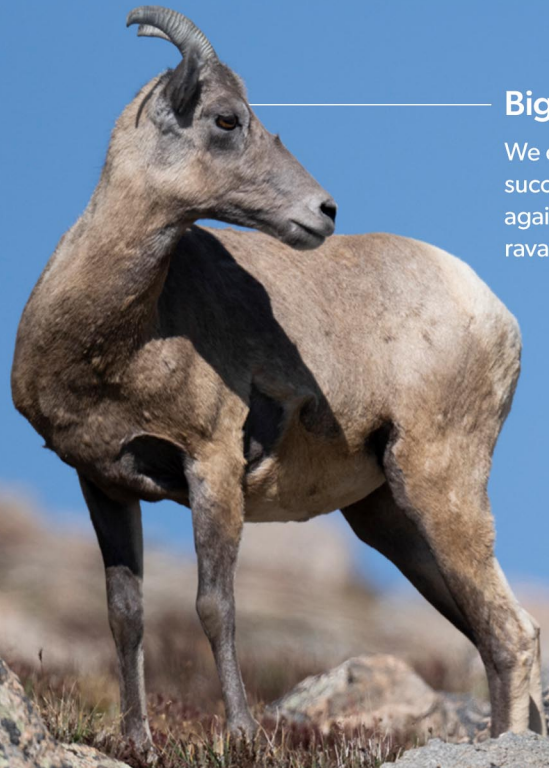


# Conservation Connection

Since 1996, Denver Zoo has participated in more than 600 conservation projects in 62 countries spanning six continents—including efforts to protect iconic Colorado species and their habitats.



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## Bighorn Sheep | Navajo Nation

We continued our work with the Navajo Nation, successfully vaccinating 90 bighorn sheep against the deadly pneumonia virus that is ravaging the Diné people's herds.



## Boreal Toad Denver Zoo

Denver Zoo received 96 additional locally endangered boreal toads from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for our ongoing conservation breed-and-release partnership.



**Cinereous Vulture**  
East Gobi, Mongolia



## American Bison Western Tribal Lands

Denver Zoo worked with multiple partners to lay the groundwork for reparative donations of 14 American bison to Native American tribes' conservation herds across the West.



**Lake Junín Frog +  
Chilean Flamingo**  
Lake Junín, Peru



**Tonkin Snub-  
Nosed Monkey**  
Ha Giang, Vietnam



## Mountain Goats Mt. Evans/Blue Sky

Denver Zoo spread gallons of mountain lion urine along trailhead parking lot perimeters, resulting in a 90% reduction in mountain goats wandering into these high-traffic areas.

# Why Babies Matter

Oohs and aahs aside—every one of our beautiful Zoo babies is part of a worldwide conservation partnership with our AZA colleagues. As the planet’s wild places disappear, zoo-based breeding efforts like the Species Survival Plan (SSP) represent many species’ best chance for survival.



Clover + Felix | Eastern Bongos



Ingot, Ducat + Friends | Panamanian Golden Frogs



Akili | Mandrill



Reggie + Cindy  
Humboldt Penguins



Denver, Diamond + Jonas  
Chilean Flamingos



**Winnie**  
Asian Elephant

The first Asian elephant to be conceived and born via artificial insemination at Houston Zoo, Winnie is the result of SSP efforts using sperm from our very own bachelor, Bodhi.

# Grand Openings

In 2021, we welcomed some amazing improvements across our 84-acre campus—representing meaningful milestones in both animal care and guest experience.



Helen and Arthur E. Johnson  
**Animal Hospital**  
Opened May 2021

This state-of-the-art facility ensures that every member of our animal family can receive the care they need—while educating and inspiring the next generation of animal advocates.



Pinnacol  
**African Penguin Point**  
Opened September 2021

With design inspired by the endangered species' Cape Town origins, our waddle's new digs feature a 10,000-gallon pool, cozy burrows and enchanting vantage points for enjoying their antics.



Tropical Discovery  
**Sloth Tree**  
Opened May 2021

Located in the heart of our popular indoor rainforest, our soaring new Sloth Tree spotlights this sweet, shy species—while educating guests about the perils of palm oil.

# The Mane Event

Denver Zoo 2021 Milestones



**April 16**  
The Denver Zoo airs on Colorado Public Radio



**June 26**  
Flock Party raises \$287K for our beloved flamingo flock



**August 14**  
Augustana Arts Orchestra performs "Splish, Splash, Stomp + Soar"

**August 20**  
Colorado Ballet enchants guests with original modern works



**October 1**  
Denver Zoo launches new Wild Fall seasonal offerings

**January 1**  
Denver Zoo kicks off 125 Years of Love celebrations

**May 29**  
Black Birders Event honors conservationists of color



**April 25**  
Dia del Niño celebrates all children with SCFD Partners



**July 22**  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance performs "Yemanja"

**July 13**  
Mexican Cultural Center performances wow Zoo crowds



**September 18**  
A Force of Nature Gala raises money for Denver Zoo's future

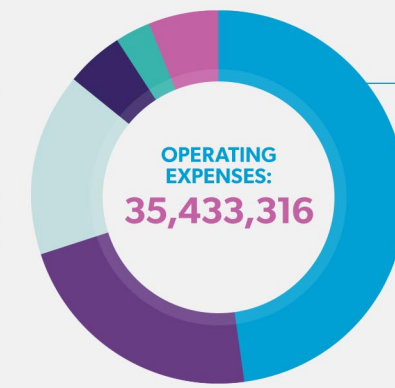
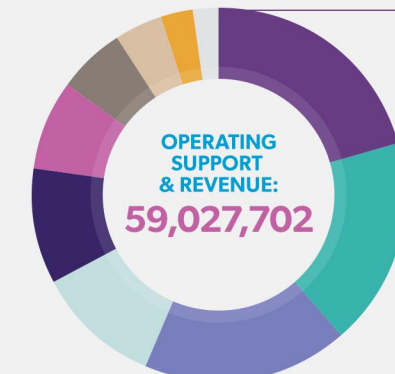
**December 31**  
Bert dresses to krill for annual Donor Thank-You video





# 2021 Year End Statement of Activities

	DENVER ZOO			CO ZOOLOGICAL TRUST			2021 TOTAL
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	
<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>							
Admission revenue	\$10,643,286	\$-	\$10,643,286	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$10,643,286
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District revenue	10,882,038	-	10,882,038	-	-	-	10,882,038
Memberships	5,961,994	-	5,961,994	-	-	-	5,961,994
Concessions commission	4,352,363	-	4,352,363	-	-	-	4,352,363
Donations, gifts and grants	708,623	2,440,636	3,149,259	585,238	52,998	638,236	3,787,495
Sponsorships and corporate events	2,471,052	-	2,471,052	-	-	-	2,471,052
Zoo Lights	3,340,809	-	3,340,809	-	-	-	3,340,809
City and County of Denver support	2,276,858	-	2,276,858	-	-	-	2,276,858
Learning experiences revenue	875,514	-	875,514	-	-	-	875,514
Attractions and Other	1,624,177	-	1,624,177	-	-	-	1,624,177
Fundraising events, net	416,757	-	416,757	-	-	-	416,757
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant	7,734,159	-	7,734,159	-	-	-	7,734,159
Paycheck Protection Program note payable forgiveness	4,661,200	-	4,661,200	-	-	-	4,661,200
Transfer from CZT to Denver Zoo	173,071	-	173,071	(173,071)	-	(173,071)	-
Net assets released from restrictions	3,601,006	(3,601,006)	-	173,071	(173,071)	-	-
Total revenue, gains, and other support	59,722,907	(1,160,370)	58,562,537	585,238	(120,073)	465,165	59,027,702
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Program expenses:							
Animal sciences	16,883,618	-	16,883,618	-	-	-	16,883,618
Guest experiences	7,769,136	-	7,769,136	-	-	-	7,769,136
Learning experiences	1,882,737	-	1,882,737	-	-	-	1,882,737
Field conservation	1,168,824	-	1,168,824	-	-	-	1,168,824
Total program expenses	27,704,315	-	27,704,315	-	-	-	27,704,315
Support services:							
Management and general	5,568,106	-	5,568,106	132,324	-	132,324	5,700,430
Fundraising	2,028,571	-	2,028,571	-	-	-	2,028,571
Total support services	7,596,677	-	7,596,677	132,324	-	132,324	7,729,001
Total expenses	35,300,992	-	35,300,992	132,324	-	132,324	35,433,316
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NONOPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	24,421,915	(1,160,370)	23,261,545	452,914	(120,073)	332,841	23,594,386
<b>NONOPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>							
Capital campaign contributions	-	1,117,856	1,117,856	-	-	-	1,117,856
Investment return	734	-	734	1,265,133	1,178,929	2,444,062	2,444,796
Master Plan design and construction costs	(5,057,679)	-	(5,057,679)	-	-	-	(5,057,679)
Total nonoperating income (loss)	(5,056,945)	1,117,856	(3,939,089)	1,265,133	1,178,929	2,444,062	(1,495,027)
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	19,364,970	(42,514)	19,322,456	1,718,047	1,058,856	2,776,903	22,099,359
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	11,035,666	4,770,424	15,806,090	14,981,193	13,965,299	28,946,492	44,752,582
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	30,400,636	4,727,910	35,128,546	16,699,240	15,024,155	31,723,395	66,851,941



\* All percentages are rounded to a whole number

125.♥



**DENVER ZOO**

1896 **125** 2021  
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