



Annual Report 2021

Cover Image:
**California Sea Lion,
in the Wild**

Inside Cover Image:
**Sea Lion Viewing Tunnel
Rendering
Galápagos Islands Exhibit
Opening 2023**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	A Letter from our President & Board Chair	24	Texas Wildlife-Saving Successes
4	New Animals at the Zoo	26	Conservation Partners & Affiliates
6	Animal Care	28	Events at the Houston Zoo
8	New Construction	32	Zoo Ball
10	Galápagos Islands Progress	34	Donor Groups
14	Conservation Education	36	Financials
16	Wildlife Conservation at the Zoo	38	Support
20	Saving Animals in the Wild	42	Houston Zoo Staff
22	Awards and Recognition	44	Houston Zoo Board

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Look for these icons to learn how activities outlined in the 2021 Annual Report contributed to specific priorities of the Strategic Plan for the Houston Zoo. For more information, visit: houstonzoo.org/strategicplan



Lee Ehmke, *President and CEO*, and **Stacy Methvin**, *Chair, Board of Directors*



Reflecting On Our Recovery

Thank you for standing with and supporting your Houston Zoo in 2021.

Throughout the year, we focused on recovering from the deep impact of the pandemic while responding to extraordinary challenges like the historic winter freeze. Managing that weather event took multiple shifts of ride-out crews drawn from across the Zoo. Time and again, our team members go to incredible lengths to protect the Zoo and our animals. We are grateful for our Zoo team, and you will see their dedication to our mission reflected in every story in the pages that follow.

Winter gave way to spring and summer, and we saw campers laughing, smiling, and exploring the Zoo once again with the return of in-person Camp Zoofari. Over the course of the year, our Conservation Education team restarted a slate of in-person programs with safety top of mind. The need for our audiences to stay connected with animals and nature was clear. By the end of 2021, we welcomed more than 1.9 million guests, almost matching a typical pre-pandemic year. This better-than-forecast attendance was vital to our strong recovery.

Capital construction projects also kept our grounds buzzing with activity. The beautifully renovated John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Plaza dramatically improves the entry experience, while Flamingo Terrace offers guests a new gathering place. We also hit major milestones on construction of Galápagos Islands. With large portions of the exhibit visible above the construction fence, it's unmistakable that something big is coming to the Houston Zoo!

Speaking of big, with the back-to-back births of Winnie and Teddy, we now have 13 Asian elephants thriving at our Zoo. Our avian specialists also had a productive year with the hatchings of two highly endangered blue-billed curassows. The story of baby Cleo the ring-tailed lemur is a must-read, as it shows how our animal health professionals provide life-saving care. You will also see how far beyond our Zoo, from Saint Vincent in the Caribbean to Kenya, we were able to respond to global wildlife emergencies.

The successes outlined in this Annual Report were made possible because of your committed support. From everyone at the Houston Zoo, thank you!



Lee Ehmke
President and CEO



Stacy Methvin
Chair, Board of Directors

New Additions to the Houston Zoo Family

Saving Critically Endangered Birds

Blue-Billed Curassow

In 2021 the Zoo successfully hatched one of the most endangered of all birds, the blue-billed curassow. One chick was hand-reared while the other chick was parent-reared by the blue-billed curassow hen. Parent-rearing by a curassow is rare and hasn't been attempted in more than 25 years at the Zoo. Typically, the Zoo foster-rears curassow chicks with a domestic chicken but with the addition of the new Pantanal exhibit, it allowed for more space to attempt parent-rearing.



Blue-billed curassow chick and hen



Asian elephants, *Teddy and Winnie*



Ocelot, *Sriracha*



Four painted terrapins were hatched. It's the first time the Zoo has hatched the endangered turtle.



Aruba island rattlesnake



 **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
NEW VULTURE COMMITTEE**



Ring-tailed lemur, *Cleo*

Great Horned Owl Eye Surgery

Nine-year-old great horned owl, Roxie, was observed squinting her right eye and under closer examination, her care team noticed she was doing it more frequently. Over two years, Roxie underwent numerous eye exams and procedures, including the eventual removal of her right eye and the discovery of a cataract in her left eye. After several days of training, Roxie's trainers were able to successfully administer voluntary medicated drops which continued through her July 2021 right eye removal and left eye cataract surgery and recovery in November. To remove the cataract, the Zoo partnered with veterinary animal ophthalmologists Dr. Nicholas Millichamp of Eye Care for Animals' and Dr. Lynsey Wagner of Gulf Coast Animal Eye Clinic who performed the surgery. The new lens was specially created by scientists in Germany at an-vision Inc.

Since her procedure, Roxie has made a great recovery, and we've seen improvement in her vision!



**WATCH A VIDEO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
ROXIE'S PROCEDURE**



Ring-tailed Lemur Infant, Cleo

In August, a female ring-tailed lemur was born to Cairrean. At a regular medical check-up, baby Cleo was found to be smaller than they expected her to be for her six-week age and not using her hind-legs to grip mom as tightly as she should.

The primate team and veterinarians huddled to make a plan to help Cleo gain weight. The first step was supplemental feedings. The keepers started by asking mom to bring Cleo over to be bottle fed, and to our delight, she did! For a few days, Cairrean successfully brought her baby to them for additional feedings.

However, during an evaluation, the Zoo's medical team found that Cleo wasn't gaining quite as much weight as they had hoped with the supplemental feedings, and that Cairrean had stopped producing milk. The care team decided that the next step was to hand-rear Cleo where she and mom could still see each other. This was important to ensure they could maintain their strong bond while baby Cleo gets all her nutrition given to her by the animal care staff. Today, Cleo is continuing to make steady progress.



**WATCH A VIDEO OF
CLEO WITH OUR
MEDICAL TEAM**



**HIGHEST QUALITY
OF LIFE FOR
ANIMALS**

New Additions to the Houston Zoo:

Flamingo Terrace & John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Plaza

New construction continued at the Zoo, including the opening of two new guest spaces, the John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Plaza and Flamingo Terrace. The renovated front entrance and new McGovern Plaza opened in January 2021. This renovation is helping make way for construction for the Galápagos Islands, opening in 2023. Also new in 2021, the brand-new beer garden, Flamingo Terrace opened in September and offers all guests the opportunity to sit on the shaded patio and enjoy seasonal Saint Arnold beer, snacks, and more. The new space opened just in time for Brew at the Zoo. It's located across from the Reflection Pool and leads right into our flamingo exhibit.



SAVING ANIMALS IN THE WILD:

In 2021, the Zoo **recycled 360 lbs of discarded maps**, protecting habitat by reducing the harvesting of trees.



John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Plaza





SAVING ANIMALS IN THE WILD:

The team successfully **recycled 87% of waste** generated from the Galápagos Islands exhibit construction process.

Galápagos Islands, Aerial view of exhibit construction site



Penguins are coming to the Zoo!

Construction continues at the front of the Zoo as we make great strides toward opening our newest expansion, Galápagos Islands. In April, we announced penguins will be a part of the exhibit. When Galápagos Islands opens it will include a state-of-the-art habitat for Humboldt penguins. With sea lions, giant tortoises, sharks, and more, Galápagos Islands will add an extraordinary immersive experience to Houston's world-class zoo.



Galápagos penguins are threatened by overfishing, ocean pollution, and climate change and are strictly protected by the Ecuadorian government. It is the most threatened penguin species in the world, with an estimated population of less than 2,000 individuals. Because of this, the closely related Humboldt penguin represents them in the Zoo's new habitat.

Humboldt penguins are a great fit for Houston, since they originate from Chile and Peru in South America where it can get as warm as 100 degrees. However, they will not have to battle the Houston heat since they will have a climate-controlled environment where they will be comfortable at a consistent temperature and will be protected against Houston's mosquitos which can potentially transmit avian malaria to penguins.

The penguin exhibit has been generously given in memory of Isabel James Davis and James Anderson Elkins III.



CREATE MEANINGFUL
GUEST EXPERIENCES

Connecting Houston Zoo to the Galápagos

In 2021, while the Zoo's staff continued to protect sea turtles on the upper Texas coast, the Zoo provided support for our Galápagos conservation partners to protect sea turtle nests in Galápagos. Our conservation partners at Ecology Project International worked with 27 wildlife trained Galápagueño teenagers to protect 58 green sea turtle nests on Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands, with the support of Galápagos National Parks staff. The Galápagueño staff and teens empowered 394 local island community members to join them in protecting the sea turtle nests during the nesting season.

The Zoo has strategically shared our new Galápagos exhibit plans with the wildlife community in Galápagos. In 2021, two of the Zoo's Galápagos conservation partners, Dr. Rakan Zahawi, Executive Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation and Lady Marquez of Ecology Project International-Galápagos, visited the Zoo to see the progress on the exhibit. In December, Dr. Zahawi was toured around the site by Houston Zoo staff and CEO, Lee Ehmke. In April, Lady, who leads the Zoo's sea turtle protection, and other conservation work, in Galapagos, got to see the exhibit construction, and participate in some of the Zoo's Texas sea turtle work, during her visit. Both were immensely grateful to the Zoo for highlighting their unique home and extremely proud to see the first official Gaápagos exhibit in the making.

To connect the Galápagos community to the deeper wildlife-saving plastic reduction messages of the new Galápagos exhibit, Lady helped the Zoo by inviting 20 Galápagos conservation organizations to join in on the Zoo's Wildlife-Saving Plastic Free July event in 2021. Everyone in Houston and Galápagos shared their plastic reduction and recycling ideas and activities virtually and inspired one another. The Zoo shared an activity where reusable bags are made from old t-shirts, which was a huge hit for the Galápagos community. The Zoo also provided plastic reduction related prizes (Houston Zoo reusable bags, water bottles and straws) and designed certificates for the Galápagos conservation organization's plastic reduction competitions they carried out in July.



Lady Marquez, of Ecology Project International-Galápagos, with Zoo veterinary staff.



Dr. Rakan Zahawi, Executive Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation, with Lee Ehmke and Zoo staff Renee Bumpus, Trisha Crowe, and Peter Riger



**WATCH A VIDEO OF OUR MEDICAL TEAM AND
LADY MARQUEZ DURING HER TRIP TO TEXAS**



In-person Education Programming is Back and Making a Positive Impact for Wildlife

The Conservation Education team was excited to bring back some of their mission-focused in-person programs after a long pause due to COVID. Our sold-out Camp Zoofari had 1,133 campers with 229 campers who would not otherwise be able to attend camp receiving scholarships. These campers made an impact on wildlife by recycling 50 pounds of snack wrappers and built 59 bird houses from reclaimed wood to create habitat in their neighborhoods for native wildlife. We also brought back our saving-wildlife school partnership program with support from the Fay School, a K-5 private school in Houston, announced their first-ever school mascot as an alligator with the intent of choosing a native animal their student body can focus on trying to save through student actions. All of our guest engagement programs that add value to our Zoo visitors each day are back in-person as well. This includes volunteers, Zoo Crew teens, and SPARK, our interpretive team that roams the Zoo seeking to engage with guests to enhance their visit. The SPARK team had more than 387,000 meaningful interactions with guests in 2021.





Teens Work to Save Local Snakes

Our teens spearheaded a new campaign with the goal to change the way Houstonians perceive one of the most misunderstood animals on the planet, snakes. The teens formed the Snake-Saving Campaign Committee, in collaboration with our wildlife-saving conservation partner Murthy Kantimahanti, founder and director of the Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society. Murthy mentored this group of teens to follow a successful model of behavior change he uses in his community. The first step is understanding your target audience's perceptions of the animal you are trying to save. Teens spent the summer interviewing and observing Zoo guests and surveying their own family, friends and community. From what the teens learned in analyzing this data they will be working in summer 2022 to implement the community outreach phase of the campaign.



CONSERVATION
EDUCATION



SAVING ANIMALS IN THE WILD:

Because of on-grounds recycling efforts, **we diverted 2,605 cubic yards of waste** headed to landfills and **avoided 18 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.**

Saving Wild Birds at the Zoo

Millions of migratory birds soar across Texas every year, so the Zoo works hard to maintain a bird-safe environment. Special bird-safe window treatments have been installed on buildings and exhibits, on Zoo grounds, to protect wild birds from window collisions. You can see the bird-safe glass on the Cypress Circle Café, in front of the Texas Wetlands which offers a safe rest and recuperation stop for many wild birds that pass through on their migratory journeys. In 2021, our Zoo Crew teen program created a bird monitoring team to track some of the wild bird activity on Zoo grounds.

Bird-Friendly coffees are grown in a way that provides a variety of foods for birds. Unlike the shade-grown coffee designation, Bird-Friendly coffee ensures that coffee farms provide vegetation cover that protects high quality habitat for birds and other wildlife. In 2021, the Zoo worked with its coffee roaster, Katz Coffee, on getting their Smithsonian Bird Friendly coffee certification. When you drink the coffee at the Zoo you can know that you are helping to save thousands of wild birds and many of the bird species we have at the Zoo, like the Andean cock-of-the-rock, in the wild.



Striped bird-safe window treatments installed at Cypress Circle Café



Saving Animals by Saving Water

The Houston Zoo continued to reduce its water use as part of an effort to conserve natural resources and protect wildlife. Even as new exhibits and facilities opened and post-pandemic attendance numbers continued to increase, the Zoo still reduced its overall water consumption by nearly 13 million gallons between 2020 and 2021. The Zoo has reduced its water consumption every year since 2017 through water-saving measures like rainwater collection and reuse, better leak detection, more efficient landscape irrigation, and the upgrading of older exhibits and buildings to newer water-efficient systems.

These efforts help conserve water as a precious resource for both humans and animals. The extraction and treatment of water requires the use of energy that is largely supplied by fossil fuels, and it can deplete aquifers and contribute to the loss of aquatic habitats such as lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Saving water is one of the critical ways in which the Zoo helps ensure its operations protect animals in the wild.



OPERATE
SUSTAINABLY

Cutting Emissions and Protecting Animals through Recycling

In 2021, the Houston Zoo's efforts to keep waste out of landfills helped preserve natural habitats and cut carbon emissions. The Zoo recycled more than 62 tons of cardboard, and plastics as well as 31 tons of metal. Combined with more than 1,186 tons of composted organic material, these efforts avoided 2,605 cubic yards of space that these materials would have taken up in local landfills. The Zoo's recycling efforts included more than 1,040 lbs of office electronics like computers, monitors, and printers, as well as 1,137 cell phones, tablets, and small electronic gadgets collected from the local community. Cell phones and tablets contain precious metals that are mined in gorilla habitats, so by extending the life of metals that have already been extracted, it reduces the demand for newly mined metals and saves gorillas in the wild.

These efforts to keep waste out of landfills also helped eliminate carbon emissions. Roughly 18 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were avoided by recycling or composting these materials rather than allowing them to break down in a landfill.



Responding to Global Wildlife Emergencies

Historic Drought in Kenya

While thousands of guests fed giraffes at the Houston Zoo in 2021, they were also supporting our efforts to provide emergency support for water and food stations for more than 70 wild giraffes in Kenya. Wildlife in Kenya was severely impacted by a drought that plagued the region from April until December. The Zoo provided support for our giraffe conservation partners, the Somali Giraffe Conservation Program, to offer water to both wildlife and local communities. They also offered hay and pelleted food to strengthen the wild giraffe, zebra and other species in the area. Our African giraffe conservation partners are immensely grateful for the Zoo's rapid response to this urgent need.



Volcanic Eruption on St. Vincent Island

Outside of Saint Vincent, an island in the Caribbean, the Houston Zoo is the only place in North America to have a captive breeding colony of the rare Saint Vincent parrot. On April 9, 2021, a volcano on the northern side of the island erupted for the first time since 1979. The 32 eruptions blanketed parts of the island with heavy ash, destroying vegetation, damaging buildings, disrupting water supplies, and displacing over 20% of the island's 100,000 people.

The Zoo immediately contacted the Saint Vincent Forestry Department to offer support and discuss immediate and short-term needs to save the Saint Vincent parrot from extinction. The Zoo shipped 46 pairs of specialized hiking boots to the St. Vincent Forestry department to use to locate the parrots after the eruptions. The Director of the Forestry Department, shared that “the staff is very happy for the support of the parrot and the wildlife assessment, monitoring and recovery process after the explosive eruptions of the volcano. Thank you, Houston Zoo. Also continued thanks for supporting the Forestry Department and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.” The Forestry Department staff conducted surveys to determine the parrot population numbers and offered supplementary food stations for the parrots they found. Zoo staff conducted a virtual training on the Saint Vincent amazon reproduction and provided feedback and resources for the Forestry Department as they rescued wildlife from the eruption. The Zoo also wrote articles for National Geographic and the World Zoo Association detailing the eruption and the efforts to protect the critically endangered Saint Vincent parrots.



Photo: Joel Sartore



Houston Zoo takes Top Honors in Exhibit Design & Conservation

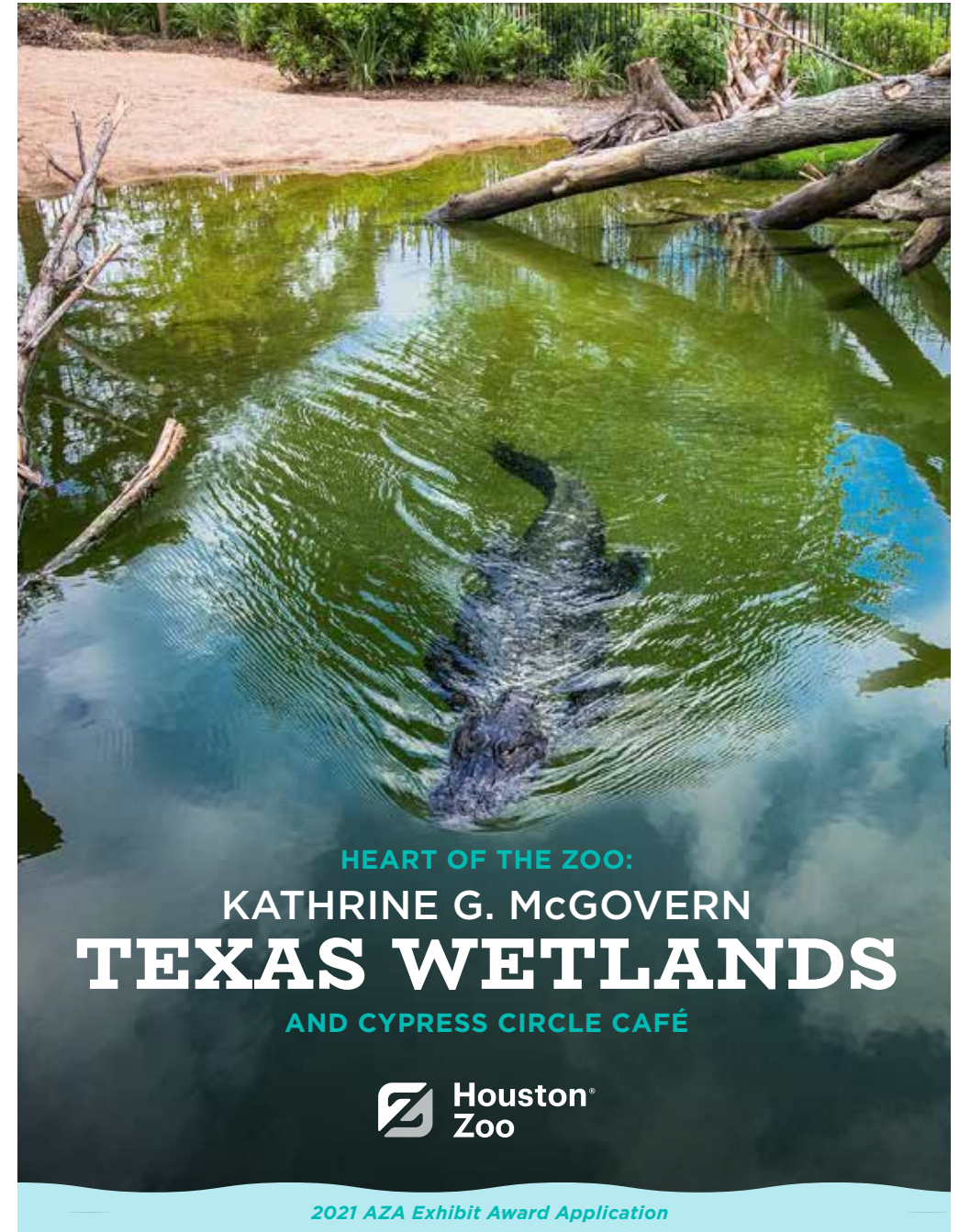
The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) recognized the Houston Zoo with two Top Honors during the 2021 AZA Virtual Annual Conference in September.

TOP HONORS – Exhibit Award

The Houston Zoo was praised for its work on the Kathrine G. McGovern Texas Wetlands and Cypress Circle Café which opened in 2019 right in the heart of the nearly 100-year-old zoo.

TOP HONORS – William G. Conway International Conservation Award

The Houston Zoo was also recognized alongside partners Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, Naples, Florida. and SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment for their joint work with the Giant Armadillo Conservation Project in South America. The main goal of the project is to utilize field data to inform conservation and planning. The project has developed many creative conservation initiatives involving a diversity of stakeholders to safeguard the species' future.



Saving Wildlife: Giants of the Pantanal KPRC Special won a Lone Star EMMY

KPRC-2's hour-long special, "Saving Wildlife: Giants of the Pantanal," won a 2021 Lone Star EMMY in the Environment / Science – Short Form or Long Form Content category. KPRC reporter Andy Cerota and crew traveled with the Houston Zoo to South America's Pantanal in 2019 to film the special, which aired in October 2020. This long-standing partnership has now produced five hour-long programs and KPRC is scheduled to travel to the Galápagos Islands with the Zoo in 2022.



CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE
EMMY WINNING SPECIAL



WORLD CLASS GUEST
EXPERIENCES

Saving Texas Animals from Extinction

The Houston Zoo takes great pride in our work to save native Texas animals from extinction. In 2021, the Zoo continued to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to rescue migratory birds from the local pet trade. The year was notable for the number of critically endangered Texas animals we released into the wild. 69 Attwater's prairie chickens, that were reproduced at the Zoo, were released into their wild prairie habitat. Bird staff work tirelessly to ensure this critically endangered species receives the unique care needed to prepare them for the wild. USFWS recorded the highest numbers of Attwater's prairie chickens seen in the wild in 28 years in 2021.

Throughout the year, 40 Zoo staff traveled to Galveston to join the Zoo's island-based sea turtle care staff in releasing the sea turtles that received life-saving treatment from our veterinary staff in 2021. Zoo staff provided veterinary support for 101 Green sea turtles, 42 Kemp's ridley sea turtles, and 10 Loggerhead sea turtles. Houston Zoo Health, Safety & Security staff member Maria Gallegos describes her experience releasing a sea turtle, "When I helped to release a beautiful sea turtle, I found myself matching respirations – as if we were in sync in this moment. I truly felt connected, and I knew that we, the Zoo, had saved this turtle's life – and within that "we" is "I". Releasing the sea turtle helped me to understand that I, too, am saving animals in the wild by the work that I do for the Houston Zoo!"



Our Herpetology team cared for and released **782,000 Houston toad eggs, 150 Houston toad tadpoles and 450 Houston toad toadlets**, bred at the Zoo, into the wild. Researchers are hearing and seeing more toads in the Texas landscape because of our work.



 WATCH 14 KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLES
RELEASED INTO THE WILD



SAVING ANIMALS IN THE WILD:
The introduction of reusable cups at the Zoo **diverted 342,652 single-use cups and bottles** from landfills and animal habitats.

Our Partners and Affiliates

The Houston Zoo saves our animals' wild counterparts by partnering with wildlife-saving heroes and projects around the world. We provide training, technical, and financial support to our global community-based wildlife conservation partners that are committed to educating and strengthening local communities to live harmoniously with their wildlife, empowering the next generation of conservation leaders, practicing sound research, and finding innovative and effective solutions to reduce threats to save animals from extinction.

The Houston Zoo is committed to ensuring the animals at the Zoo are protected in the wild. Supporting wildlife conservation projects around the world helps us achieve this strategic objective.

BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Houston Audubon
Galveston Bay Area Chapter-Texas
Master Naturalists

SAVING WILDLIFE

Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Center for Conservation Peace Building
IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group
IUCN Tapir Specialist Group
Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders
International Elephant Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Rice University
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums



NORTH AMERICA

International Crane Foundation, *Texas*
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Texas*
National Park Service, Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN), *Texas*
Texas A&M University at Galveston, *Texas*
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, *Texas*
US Fish and Wildlife Service, *United States of America*
USFWS Attwater's Prairie Chicken Recovery Program, *Texas*



CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Barranquilla Zoo, *Colombia*
Charles Darwin Foundation, *Ecuador*
UC Davis Marine Wildlife Health Latin American Program, *Argentina*
Ecology Project International, *Ecuador*
Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, *Brazil*
Projeto Ariranha, *Brazil*
Giant Armadillo and Anteater Conservation, *Brazil*
Proyecto Tití, *Colombia*



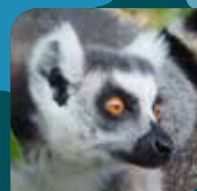
ASIA

Danau Girang Field Centre, *Malaysia*
 Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society, *India*
 Hutan: Kinabatangan Orangutan
 Conservation Project, *Malaysia*
 Satucita Foundation-Painted Terrapin,
Indonesia
 Seratu Aatai-Elephants, *Malaysia*



AFRICA

Conservation Heritage-Turambe, *Rwanda*
 Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, *Rwanda and*
Democratic Republic of Congo
 Ewaso Lions, *Kenya*
 GERP Lemur Conservation, *Madagascar*
 Gorilla Doctors, *Rwanda, Uganda,*
Democratic Republic of Congo
 Hirola and Giraffe Conservation Program, *Kenya*
 Integrated Rural Development
 and Nature Conservation, *Namibia*
 Niassa Carnivore Project, *Mozambique*
 Okapi Conservation Project, *Democratic Republic of Congo*
 Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, *Rwanda*



Events at the Houston Zoo gave guests a much-needed way to celebrate

After cancelling the 2020 event, Houston's adults were able to save animals in the wild by drinking their favorite local beer at Brew at the Zoo. The 21-and-up event took place Friday, Sept. 24 and was an all-Texas Brew at the Zoo. Guests enjoyed beer tastings from some of Houston's most popular breweries like Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Karbach, 8th Wonder Brewery, Eureka Heights Brew Co, Spindletop Brewery, and No Label Brewery.

We put the spotlight on all the little ghouls and goblins during the month-long, family favorite event Zoo Boo, presented by LyondellBasell. From Oct. 1–31 guests wore their best costumes for the Zoo's frightfully delightful Halloween event. Zoo Boo offered thrills and chills packed with family fun. New to 2021, guests enjoyed animal pumpkin carvings throughout the Zoo, took the perfect fall portrait with the haystack lion, and walked through the pumpkin tunnel made up of 500 pumpkin lanterns.







SAVING ANIMALS IN THE WILD:

In 2021 Houstonians helped us
recycle more than **4,900 pounds**
of holiday lights.

Celebrating 10 Years of Zoo Lights

In 2021 the Zoo celebrated its tenth year as one of Houston's most beloved holiday traditions. From Nov. 15 through Jan. 9, guests took in the sights and sounds of the season as they strolled through the transformed winter wonderland of TXU Energy presents Zoo Lights. Guests experienced several new features this year, including a new Holiday Grove presented by TXU Energy where hundreds of glowing tulips were synchronized to music under the historic oak trees. A canopy of glowing flowers and butterflies in the hanging pollinator garden dazzled families. Guests also had a glowing underwater adventure when they walked under illuminated jellyfish as the Great Ape Gallery transforms into the Illuminated Ocean, presented by H-E-B.

Thank you to our presenting & cornerstone sponsors:

TXU Energy

Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages

H-E-B

KPRC Channel 2

Houston Methodist



A Record-Breaking Zoo Ball

BLACK & WHITE Ball

presented by Phillips 66

Honoring

Peggy Kostial

Chairs

Alie and David Pruner

Auction Chairs

Leigh Stubbs

Anita O'Shaughnessy

After Party Chairs

Alex and Daniel Gottschalk

Carina and Brooks Antweil

In anticipation of the arrival of Humboldt penguins in 2023, Alie and David Pruner hosted the sold-out Black & White Ball presented by Phillips 66 on October 30, 2021.

The evening marked the return of Zoo Ball as an in-person event after going virtual in 2020. The community's enthusiasm for the Zoo was evident as we raised \$1.8 million for our wildlife-saving mission, a record-breaking success!

From start to finish, Chairs Alie and David Pruner worked creatively to help draw more than 700 guests. Auction Chairs Leigh Stubbs and Anita O'Shaughnessy put together the most successful auction and raffle we have ever seen. And After Party Chairs Alex & Daniel Gottschalk and Carina & Brooks Antweil kept the party going 'til midnight.



1



FINANCIAL
SUSTAINABILITY



1. Peggy Kostial, *Honoree*
2. Alie and David Pruner, *Chairs*
3. At the Underwriter Party:
Brenda Atkins, Lisa Roy,
and Leigh Stubbs, *Auction
Co-Chair*
4. From left to right: Mamadou
Beye, Fatim Beye, Andreina
Franceschi, and Clay Neff
5. Anita O'Shaughnessy, *Auction
Co-Chair* and Diana Untermeyer

[!\[\]\(acbcc819a2c48b9c57ab40b0f53f2137_img.jpg\) **CLICK HERE** TO SEE MORE PHOTOS
FROM ZOO BALL](#)

The John and Ingrid Werler Society

The Werler Society is a group of steadfast donors who choose to leave a personal legacy at the Houston Zoo and invest in our future by making gifts through their estates. After a concerted effort to engage and grow this group in recent years, we have identified millions of dollars in planned gifts that will contribute to the Zoo's long-term financial stability. More importantly, The Werler Society allows us to connect with and thank these generous supporters. At an intimate breakfast event in November, Lee Ehmke, CEO, provided insider Zoo updates to our members. This was the first of many annual Werler Society events to come.

For more information about Werler Society, [click here](#).



Asante Society's Night at the Zoo

A combination of sublime weather, Ambassador Animals, and some of Houston's finest restaurants made for a spectacular Night at the Zoo, the Asante Society's annual foodie fête. At this special event, our loyal members reconnected with each other and received updates from Lee Ehmke on our Galápagos Islands exhibit construction progress.

For more information about Asante Society, [click here](#).



Flock's Beastly Brunch

Flock is flourishing! The Houston Zoo's ever-growing donor club for young professionals held the 12th Annual Beastly Brunch in September. At the event celebrating the animals of the Zoo's Pantanal habitat, guests sipped cocktails, met our zookeepers, and bid on one-of-a-kind items, like a painting by Tesoro, our male jaguar.

For more information about Flock, [click here](#).

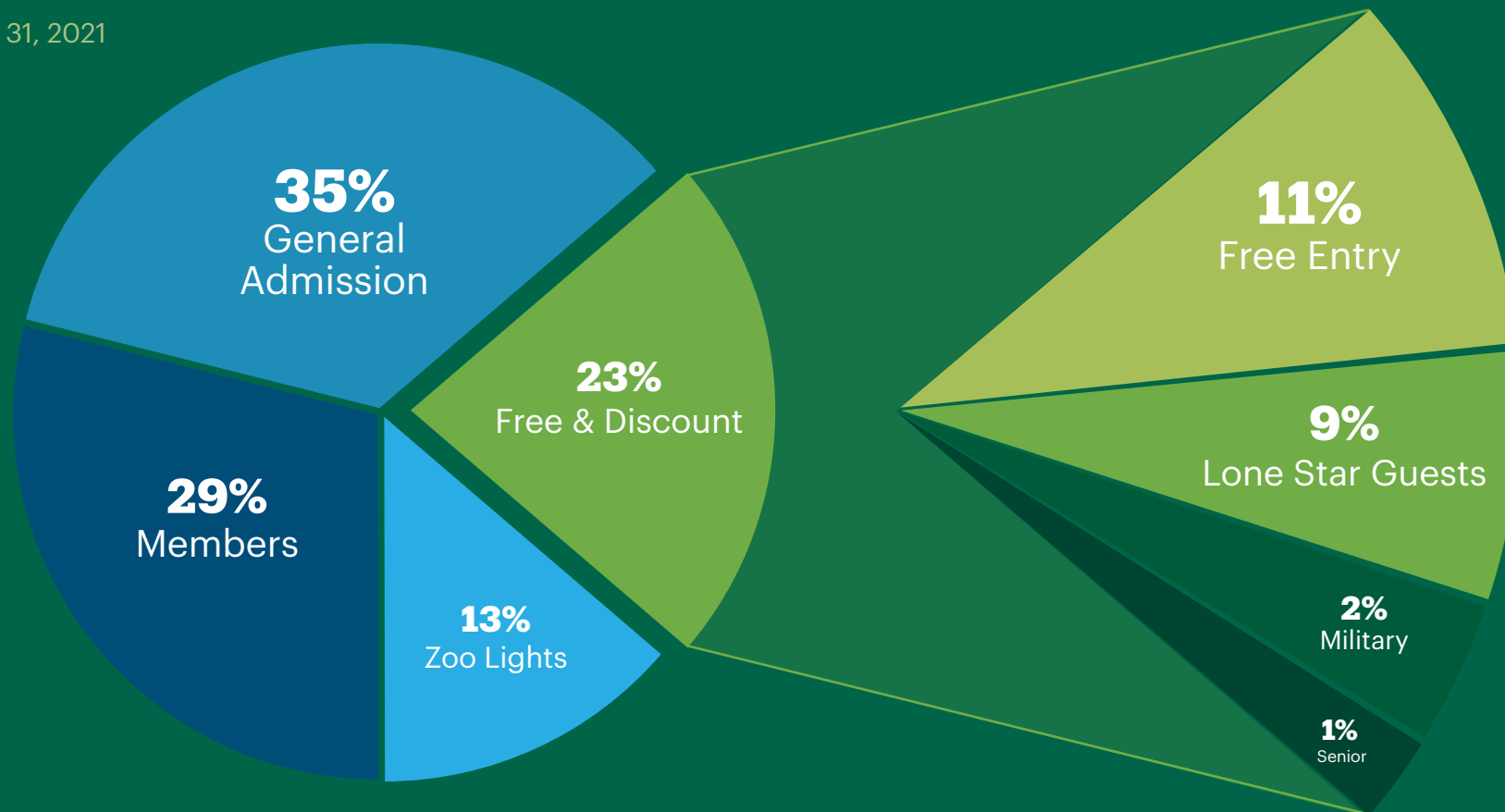


A Zoo for All

The Houston Zoo is successful because of the many constituents and supporters who believe so deeply in the Zoo's mission. Your generosity allows the Zoo to thrive as a vital part of the Houston community and helps us sustain partnerships with people and organizations in Texas and around the world dedicated to saving animals in the wild.

2021 ATTENDANCE: 1,909,831*

* As of December 31, 2021



FINANCIAL
SUSTAINABILITY

This positive financial data is a result of our strategic focus to operate in a financially-sustainable manner through innovative business and operational practices.

2021 Revenue

Contributions	\$ 30,582,877
Admission Fees	\$ 17,936,166
City of Houston Management Fee	\$ 10,461,221
Other	\$ 11,714,448
Membership Fees	\$ 7,418,011
Concession Payments	\$ 5,121,786

Total Revenue **\$ 83,234,509**

Contributions Breakdown

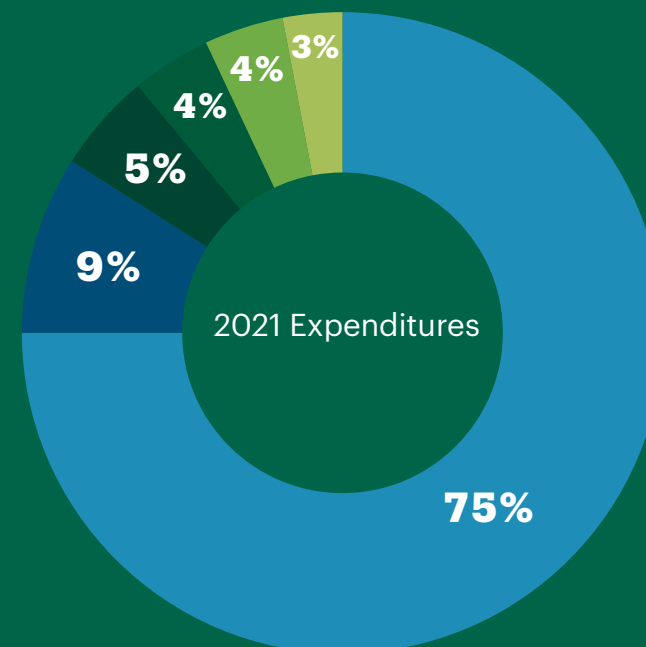
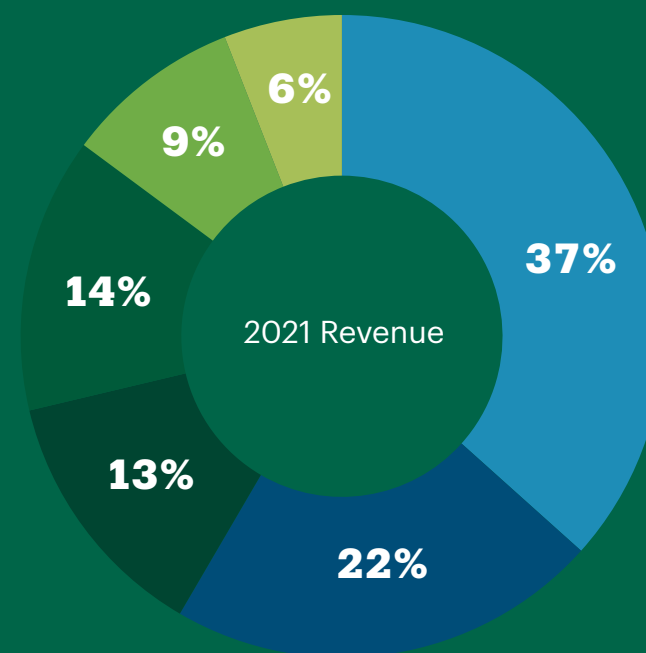
Centennial Campaign	\$ 6,969,832
Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 2,817,284
Federal Grant Contributions	\$ 17,461,519
Special Events	\$ 1,838,432
Other	\$ 1,495,810

Total Contributions **\$ 30,582,877**

2021 Expenditures

Zoo Programs	\$ 36,553,818
Conservation & Education	\$ 4,166,729
Management and General	\$ 2,537,686
Advertising and Marketing	\$ 1,935,833
Fundraising	\$ 1,906,275
Membership	\$ 1,315,559

Total Expenses **\$ 48,415,900**



Annual Gifts

\$100,000+

Anonymous
Baker & Hostetler LLP*
Chevron
Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages
The Hamill Foundation
Kathrine G. McGovern/
John P. McGovern
Foundation
Phillips 66
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Staff listed were active employees as of December 31, 2021

¹⁰⁺ = 10 - 19 years at the Zoo
²⁰⁺ = 20 - 29 years at the Zoo
³⁰⁺ = 30 - 39 years at the Zoo
⁴⁰⁺ = 40 years at the Zoo

Celebrating 40 Years of Service



Stan Mays, Herpetology & Entomology Curator



George Brandy, Aquarium and Sea Lions Curator



WORKPLACE
OF CHOICE



Galapagos Tortoise

Houston Zoo

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2021 Annual Report

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