

## TULSA ZOO

### BUILDING BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS



#### **WHAT THE ZOO NEEDS FROM CIP**

\$43.5 million for projects for failing exhibits and buildings as determined by the extensive Master Plan process completed in 2012. Additionally, a comprehensive facility evaluation was conducted in 2010 by a third party engineering firm as part of the zoo's transition to private management. The following exhibits are targeted because they address the general safety, health, and welfare issues of zoo patrons, staff and animals as well as deferred maintenance. By focusing on these exhibits the zoo will continue to make progress on our 20-year master plan, growing the zoo into the world-class institution that Tulsa deserves.

#### **Tiger & Snow Leopard Exhibits, \$3.75 million**

These exhibits are now beyond their useful life, constructed in the early 1960's and mid-1980's respectively. A variety of infrastructure deficiencies plague these exhibits including: leaking ceilings, rusting metal caging, crumbling concrete and block, difficult to operate heavy iron doors, insufficient lighting, improper drainage, steep moat (tiger), climate controlled holding buildings, insufficient holding space, and minimal animal exhibit space. These deficiencies make it difficult for staff to care and manage animals. During past inspections these areas have been cited by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and by Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). As regulations and standards continue to rise, the zoo will face non-compliance issues in the future on an on-going basis for these exhibits. In addition, the insufficient holding space makes it difficult at best to participate in conservation breeding programs, as demonstrated by Berani, our tiger cub last fall.

#### **Carnivores, \$8 million**

As already noted, the current large carnivore grottos, including our lion exhibit, were built in the early 1960's and are targeted for demolition as soon as possible. A variety of infrastructure deficiencies plague these exhibits as already noted with the tiger and snow leopard exhibits. They are also difficult for staff to care and manage the animals, and have been cited by USDA and AZA for non-compliance issues.

#### **Wild Islands, \$14 million**

The new Wild Islands exhibit complex will address the same deficiencies noted before that exist in our current lemur exhibit which is a re-purposed 1960's era bear grotto. In addition the Conservation Center, the oldest exhibit building on grounds, will receive updates to remedy both exhibit and back of house issues such as outdated electrical distribution, HVAC, plumbing, guest viewing

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### **Wild Islands, continued**

and animal exhibits and holding areas that minimally meet standards. The Wild Islands exhibit complex is an important addition to the Tulsa Zoo to eliminate current infrastructure failures as well as introduce the new element of water play for guests during the summer months adding much needed revenue in the warm summer months.

### **Realm of the Jaguar, \$4 million**

The Andean bears will be re-located to this area to address the deficiencies as noted above with the large carnivore grottos. Additionally, the Jaguar habitat expands and improves the back of house animal holding/service areas for the long term breeding management of this species as required by AZA.

### **The Village & Giraffe Celebration, \$10 million**

Additional giraffe exhibit shade and more barn stalls that are larger are required to support an expanding herd and meet the long term breeding management of this species. The zoo patron experience will also be improved with an indoor view area into the giraffe barn during the cold winter months. The current Africa village will be renovated to include small animal exhibits with new village interpretation to replace the existing outdated exhibitry that currently causes guest dissatisfaction. An additional train station will be added for zoo patrons that will provide transportation from the far end of the zoo.

### **Additional Deferred Maintenance Needs, \$3.8 million**

Additional maintenance and infrastructure repairs are needed throughout the entire zoo to ensure that aging structures and facilities will be sustained to meet the safety and well being of zoo patrons, staff and animals until their scheduled upgrades through the Master Plan implementation. These include HVACs, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, roofing, pathways, public barriers and animal containment in exhibit and back of house to meet the general safety of zoo guests, staff and animals. To date TZMI has invested over \$1 million in earned revenue to address many of these issues.

### **Consequences Without Action**

During this time frame, the zoo will be up for re-accreditation by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Additionally, the zoo is inspected annually by the USDA for compliance under the Animal Welfare Act to maintain

our license. Both of these processes review the facility for *compliance to standards for the health, safety, and well-being the animal collection, staff, and zoo patrons*. Without significant investment to fix the failing facilities, both our accreditation and our USDA license could be at risk, ultimately resulting in closing parts of the zoo that house a significant portion of the animal collection.

Without this investment in the Tulsa Zoo, the zoo's business plan shows an inability to sustain our budget after 12 years.

The private sector is looking to the City of Tulsa and its leadership in supporting the City's largest daily attraction. They see the zoo as the City of Tulsa's asset and responsibility. Without public funds being allocated to the Tulsa Zoo, our donors may decide not to invest in the zoo's future as well.

### **The Zoo's Impact**

- Entered into a public-private partnership with the City of Tulsa on January 1, 2011. Now managed by Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. (TZMI). TZMI is charged with addressing critical deferred maintenance left from an insufficient city budget.
- 550,000 visitors annually – the largest daily attraction in Green Country.
- \$154 million master plan over 20 years. Comparable to similar cities: OKC (\$163 million), Louisville (\$145 million), and Indianapolis (\$100 million over 10 years).
- Since 1993, OKC Zoo has completed projects totaling \$58.5 million to address outdated facilities, funded with public dollars. **In comparison, in the same time frame (1993 to today), Tulsa Zoo has received \$19.7 million in public funding.** The last major exhibit which was entirely publicly funded was the Tropical American Rainforest in 1998. The year it opened was the highest attended year in zoo history.
- Regional jobs impact will grow from 225 jobs today to 600 jobs at completion of the master plan.
- Regional economic impact will grow from \$28 million today from operations and tourism to \$75 million annually at completion of the master plan.