



2022  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



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**Jon Forrest Dohlin**  
 CEO and Zoo Director

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo's 2022 Annual Report. It has been a terrific year for the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, our guests, members, and the animals in our care.

This year the zoo enjoyed terrific attendance numbers, welcoming over 834,000 guests—our best year at the gate since 2016!

Working together with staff and stakeholders, we completed our Purpose Plan—developing a new strategic plan, master plan, and business plan in a holistic and interconnected process—and embarked on the challenge of creating an organization that lives our Mission everyday:

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires people to care for animals; make connections; build community; and save wildlife!

The master plan that came out of this process aspires to be a reflection and an embodiment of the Mission. It reflects our commitment to create exhibits and holding areas that allow our animals to live rich lives of well-being and contentment; to create experiences for our guests that lead to greater awareness and empathy for wildlife and the habitats that support healthy populations; to create a sense of welcome and outreach to all our neighbors in this diverse community; and to work together on every front to achieve conservation impact that will create a world where humans and wildlife thrive together.

A significant part of the work to 'walk the walk' of our Mission has been the building of wide-ranging and vibrant Community Partnerships. This year we partnered with the City of Fresno's One Fresno Foundation to provide 10,000 tickets to some of the most impoverished and at-risk youth in our area. Our MOUs with Fresno Housing Authority and Fresno State University create outreach, academic opportunities, internships, and career pathways for students at the secondary school and college levels while our celebrations of Black History Month, Pride Month, Dia de los Muertos, and Autism Inclusion Day helped new and diverse audiences know that they too were welcome and belonged at Fresno Chaffee Zoo.

The continued growth of our relationship with Fresno Unified School District expanded access to our education programming and summer camps, while our partnership with Golden Charter Academy began in earnest with students from GCA holding classes throughout the zoo each week.

In 2022 Fresno Chaffee Zoo created a new Department of Conservation, and hired our first Director of Conservation Science to lead it. The zoo made headlines and on-the-ground impact when we formed a consortium with the Bureau of Land Management, California Fish and Wildlife, and Fresno State University to assess populations of the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard, a species endemic to the Central Valley. The field surveys revealed a crisis of disappearing populations, and the zoo stepped in with the resources and expertise to launch a captive breeding program and begin work on re-introduction. Our first season proved successful beyond all expectations—over 60 lizards were successfully hatched out from eggs laid by the remaining five individuals left on the Panoche Plateau range in western Fresno County. Next year will see the construction of a brand new building to support these captive propagation efforts, the Conservation Action Center, and the first release of these lizards back into the wild!

We ended 2022 with a spectacular celebration of holidays, bringing the zoo to life with an all new program of illuminated lanterns we called "IllumiNature". This colorful and animal-themed display set new attendance records and culminated in a celebration of the Lunar New Year.

We go into 2023 anticipating the opening of Kingdoms of Asia, the beginning of design on phase one of the master plan, and another year of inspiring Care, Connection, Community, and Conservation! We are grateful every day for your support. Thank you.

Gratefully,

Jon Forrest Dohlin  
 CEO and Zoo Director

# ANIMAL COLLECTION



## Invertebrates

Species 9  
Individuals 386



## Cartilaginous Fish (Chondrichthyes)

Species 4  
Individuals 35



## Bony Fish (Osteichthyes)

Species 17  
Individuals 148



## Amphibians

Species 15  
Individuals 109



## Reptiles

Species 62  
Individuals 221



## Birds

Species 69  
Individuals 232



## Mammals

Species 43  
Individuals 117

Totals

Species **219**  
Individuals **1,248**

## Animal Acquisitions

### Herps & Invertebrates

0.2 Black-breasted leaf turtle  
0.0.7 California tiger salamander  
24.25.146 Flamboyant flower beetle

### Birds & Mammals

1.0 African elephant  
3.0 Asian small-clawed otter  
1.1 Blue-throated macaw  
1.0 California sea lion  
1.1 Eurasian tundra reindeer  
1.1 Fennec Fox  
1.1 Golden-crested mynah  
1.0 Greater kudu  
3.0 Inca tern  
8.0 Pink-headed fruit dove  
1.1 Red wolf  
0.4 Red-billed leiothrix  
2.0 Slender-horned gazelle  
2.0 Troupial  
1.1 Virginia opossum

## Births & Hatchings

### Herps & Invertebrates

21.29.2 Blunt-nosed leopard lizards  
0.0.1 Prehensile-tailed skink  
0.0.1 Yellow-headed poison frog  
0.0.67 Zebra cichlid

### Birds & Mammals

0.0.3 Boat-billed heron  
0.2 Eastern black-and-white colobus  
0.1 Giant anteater  
1.0 Masai giraffe  
2.0 Red ruffed lemur  
0.0.1 Roseate spoonbill  
0.1 Siamang  
1.1.1 Southern screamer  
1.0 Southern white rhinoceros  
2.1 Yellow-rumped cacique

1.0 Male 0.1 Female 0.0.1 Unknown sex

## Avian Influenza (HPAI) Hits the Zoo

After dealing with the final stages of COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, the Zoo was hit with another unforeseen virus that impeded their animal care operations yet again. The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) made its way to California in the Spring of 2021. The Zoo had been monitoring the virus for several months and in July, decided to take precautionary measures to protect its birds.

"While this is a highly infectious disease, our teams are ready to enact our safety plan for this very scenario," said Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Shannon Nodolf. "We are protecting all of our birds and will continue to monitor the level of risk to take further precautions."

Bird flu is an infection caused by avian (bird) influenza (flu) viruses. These flu viruses occur naturally among birds. Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses but usually do not get sick from them. However, it is very contagious and can cause life-threatening illnesses in susceptible birds, including many zoo species.

Since the bird flu has now been found in California, the Zoo moved quickly and closed off access to their aviaries and moved birds found outside of the aviaries to alternative housing off-habitat. The Winged Wonders Bird Show was also canceled due to the severity of the virus.



Gabby, yellow-naped amazon at Bird Show, receiving a voluntary intranasal injection. This allows us to easily sedate our birds without the stress of grabbing them and giving them the choice to participate in their own medical care.



Thatcher, Eurasian eagle owl at Bird Show, receiving a talon trim. This allows us to file down overgrown nails in a voluntary fashion without having to catch him up, preventing unnecessary stress.

## Making the Most of HPAI

While this was an unwelcome circumstance, our Animal Care teams continued to keep animal welfare top of their minds. Our Bird Show team quickly pivoted and focused on voluntary training for their birds.

"Normally, our exceptional team is training different birds in our collection to fly over an audience, weave through a backdrop, or bounce from perch to perch," said Ronnie Kerestus, Curator of Animal Outreach and Well-being and Enrichment. "Once we took the necessary precautions to ensure our birds were protected from the virus, we decided to take advantage of this time to train for new voluntary medical behaviors."

The team focused on many behaviors including intranasal injections, oral exams, nail and talon trims, wing resents, and towel restraints.

"I am incredibly proud of the team and their determination to take a negative situation and turn it into a positive experience for the animals they care for and themselves," said Kerestus. "Even now with the Bird Show slowly returning and the focus shifting back to show behaviors, this has shown our team that voluntary medical behaviors can be trained just as easily as a macaw flying in a show."



# ZOOPLEX



Over the past several years, Fresno Chaffee Zoo has experienced significant growth in the number of staff and animals in our care. To accommodate this growth, in 2020 the Zoo started construction on a new operations building—Zooplex. Completed in 2022, Zooplex is nearly 18,000 square feet and includes a staff breakroom, offices, conference rooms, and a state-of-the-art animal nutrition center.

The expanded nutrition center provides much-needed space for our Nutrition Team to prepare diets for hundreds of animals daily, ensuring the highest quality of care. New staff spaces encourage collaboration, bringing teams together as part of a whole Zoo community.


This structure demonstrates our commitment to sustainable design with drought-tolerant landscaping, solar tubes to naturally light workspaces, locally sourced building materials, and solar panels to offset energy use. As the Zoo continues to grow and improve, Zooplex will serve as a central hub, bringing teams together in support of our mission.

  
**Building Size**  
**17,974**  
 square feet

  
**Nutrition Center Freezer**  
**1,358**  
 square feet

  
**Solar Panels**  
**288**

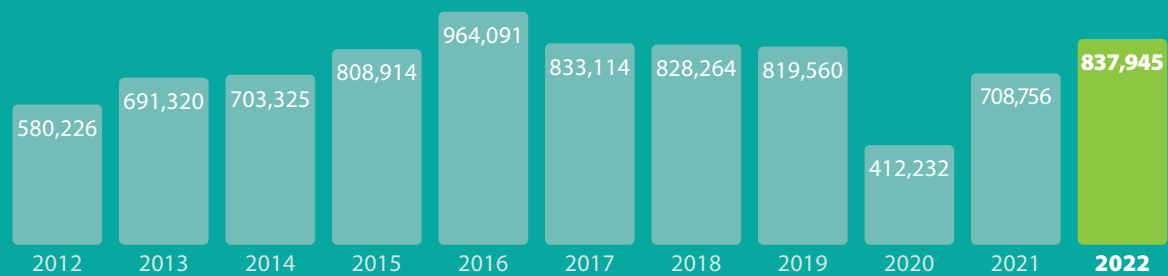
  
**Food**  
**130**  
 different diets prepared daily  
*(Many are group diets)*

  
**Elevators**  
**1**

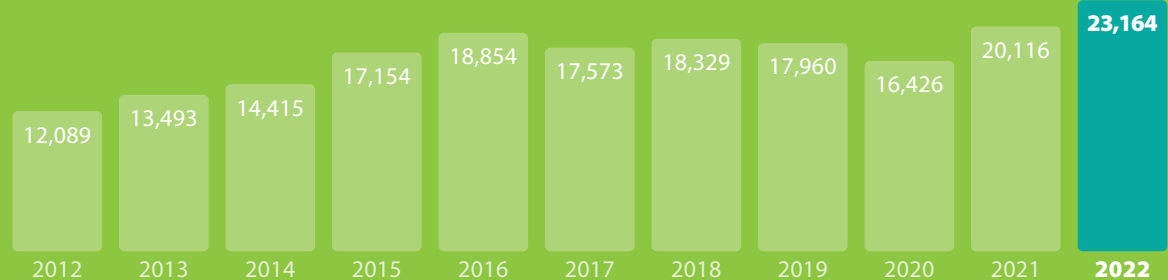
  
**Employees**  
**65+**  
 based out of Zooplex

# ATTENDANCE

## 837,945 Guests



## 23,164 Member Households



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Income

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Admissions                      | \$6,843,813         |
| Membership                      | \$2,346,942         |
| Merchandise, food, and beverage | \$2,356,516         |
| Special events                  | \$281,461           |
| Education                       | \$1,086,080         |
| Other                           | \$165,500           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>            | <b>\$13,079,862</b> |

## Expenses

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Program services       | \$22,207,415        |
| Management and general | \$2,792,032         |
| Fundraising            | \$872,967           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$25,872,414</b> |

**Change in net assets**  
**\$7,689,809**

|                                          |                       |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Measure Z – Operations                   | \$6,826,009           |
| Measure Z – Capital                      | \$14,649,772          |
| Contributions – Unrestricted             | \$891,575             |
| Contributions – Restricted               | \$40,147              |
| <b>Total Support</b>                     | <b>\$22,305,074</b>   |
| <b>Investment Gains and Other Income</b> | <b>\$ (1,925,592)</b> |
| <b>Total Revenue, Support, and Gains</b> | <b>\$33,562,223</b>   |

# EDUCATION

For the Education Team, 2022 was a year of reimagining our offerings and departmental expansion. As the doors reopened for all our programs and mask mandates subsided, our team was able to bring back cherished classes and expand partnerships.

In 2022 our Education Programs Team expanded its partnerships with Fresno Unified School District, Golden Charter Academy, and Live Again Fresno. This allowed us to provide students with fun, hands-on science learning, including summer and winter camps here at the Zoo, weeklong after-school programming at school, and programs developed in collaboration with Golden Charter Academy teachers that connect animal and natural science learning for all lessons and grades.

Our Conservation Interpretation Team grew our giraffe and stingray experiences, reaching 382,546 visitors with Giraffe Feeding and Stingray Bay encounters. Their guest enrichment carts provided interactive learning opportunities centered on animals found here at the Zoo and locally in Fresno. All chats, carts, and hands-on feedings include a rich conservation message.

Our Volunteer team was able to return to what they do best, educating visitors of all ages at the Ask Me Carts and station. In total, our Docents volunteered 16,655 hours in 2022. They also supported Zoo summer camp and our large events and members' perks with helping hands at learning and craft stations.



## Program Highlights

### Live Again Fresno

Live Again Fresno is an after-school program that visits Fresno Chaffee Zoo once a week. Students are from neighborhoods around the Zoo, including Parkway Drive. Despite how close these students live to Roeding Park, they face multiple barriers in accessing the Zoo and our regular programming. This partnership has provided a safe space to participate in educational and social-emotional activities in their own community. An average of 30 children attend the program weekly. This summer, we were able to include an art and science camp at a local Fresno artist's studio, helping to deepen community bonds for the Live Again Fresno students.



### Fresno Unified School District Summer Camp

The Education Department began a summer camp partnership with Fresno Unified School District providing an in-person camp experience for 80 campers per week for six weeks. It provided a wonderful free return to in-person camp for FUSD students. The Education Programs team created a new outdoor space, Canopy Camp, by restoring an area behind Canopy Grove with new grass and trees to provide a shady outdoor space for fun and learning. The Zoo's partnership with FUSD helped to create a model for other cultural institutions working to provide camps for all. The Zoo duplicated this success for Winter Camp 2022.



### School Guided Tours

DDocents enjoy leading Zoo tours where they discuss animal adaptations, camouflage, populations, and habitats while observing natural behaviors. Tours are available for all ages and are aligned with grade-level science standards. In 2022, Docents completed over 565 hours of tours, teaching countless guests about wildlife.

### Bilingual Presentations

In 2022, the Conservation Interpretation Team set a goal to make our chats accessible to our Spanish speaking guests. On weekends Sea Lion Cove and Stingray Bay presentations are in Spanish or are bilingual. These presentations began in June 2022 and saw more than 50,000 in attendance.



Photos above show guests learning about the Zoo and its mission through various educational activities

# 2022 CONSERVATION OVERVIEW

Through the Wildlife Conservation Fund, Fresno Chaffee Zoo provided **\$210,033** to researchers and organizations protecting wildlife around the world. In addition, the Zoo increased funding for our blunt-nosed leopard lizard in-house conservation project as well as other conservation initiatives including recycling programs and Ukraine Zoo relief, totaling an additional **\$75,236.66**.

## Highlights

In 2022, Fresno Chaffee Zoo invested \$43,627.00 to support the captive assurance colony of blunt-nosed leopard lizards housed at the Zoo and \$10,500.00 to support conservation internships for Fresno State students performing field research on wild blunt-nosed leopard lizards in the Panoche Hills.

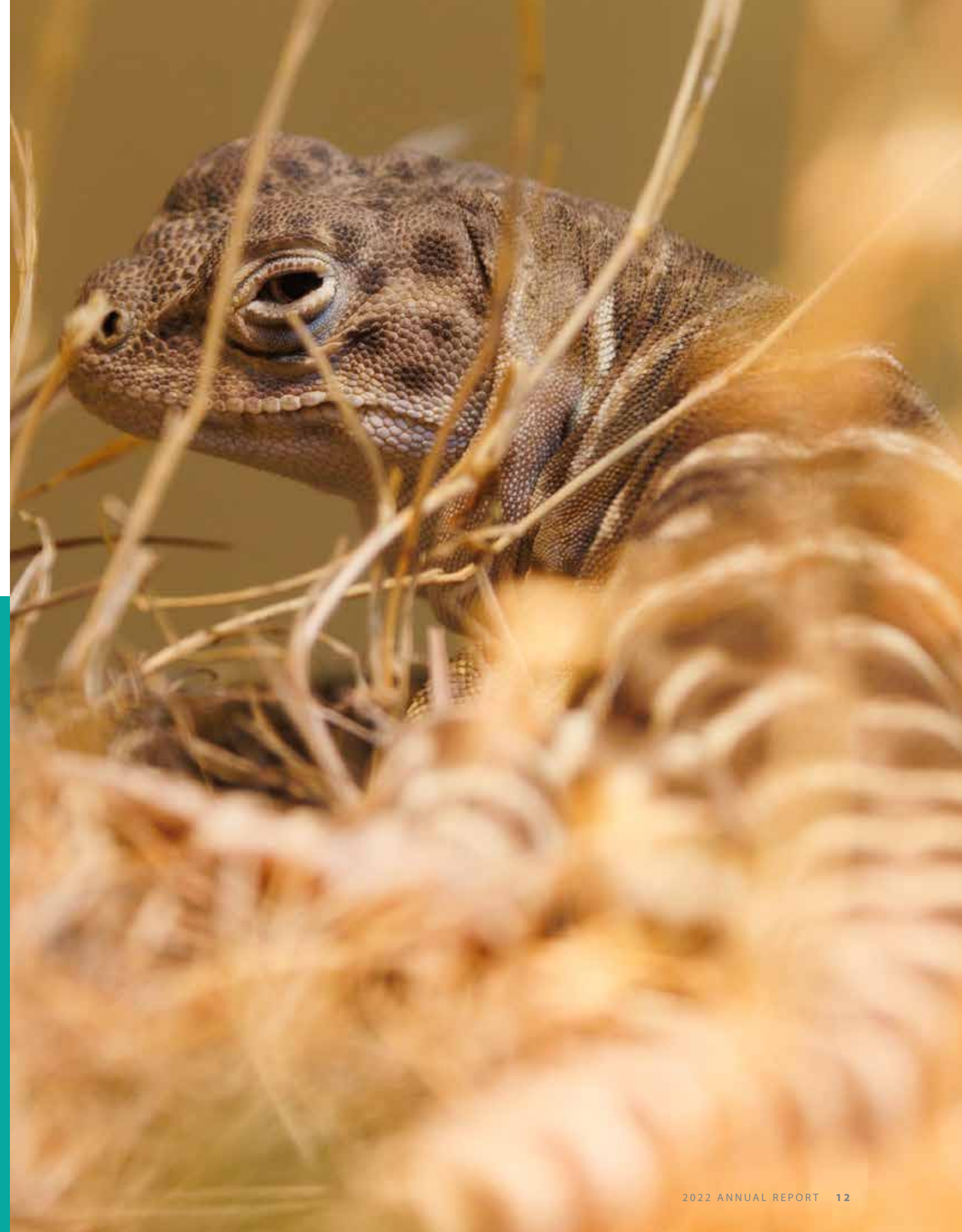
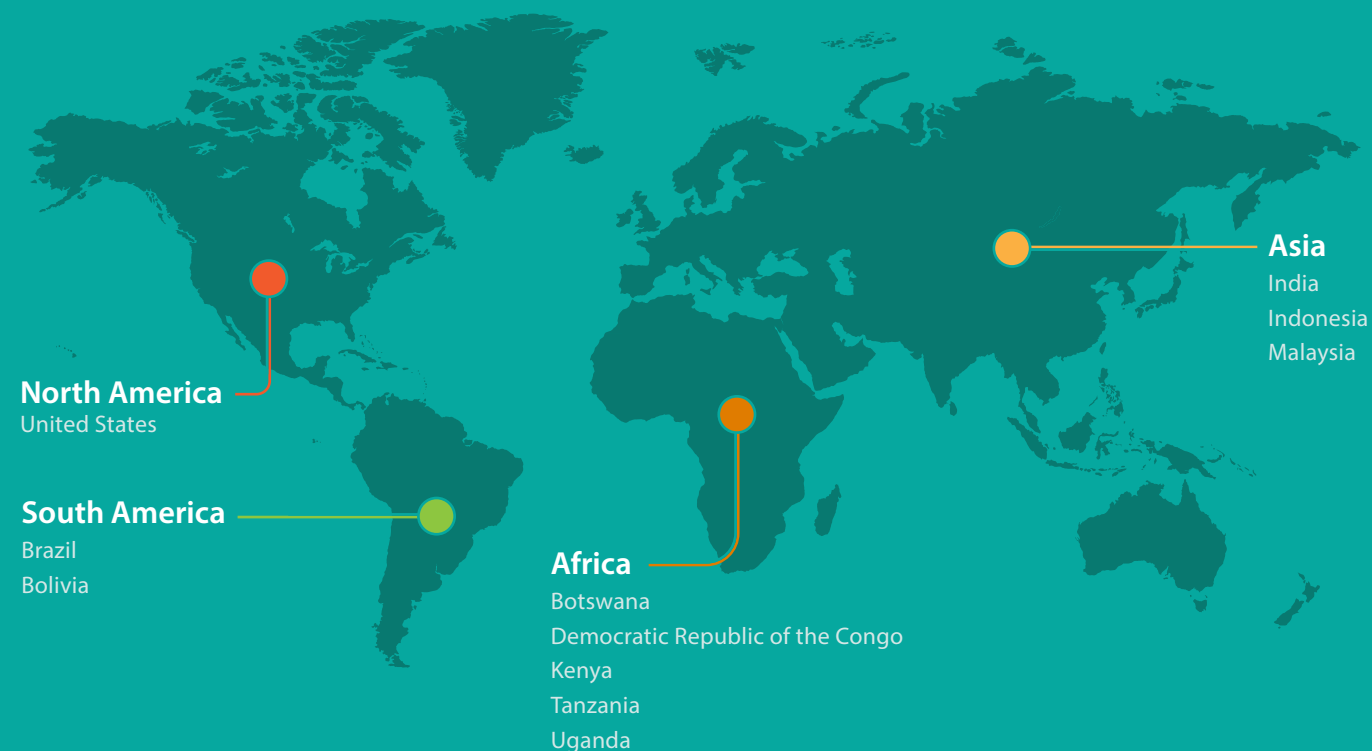
As a result of our efforts, the captive colony grew from 3 breeding pairs in 2021 to 11 breeding pairs in 2022, and these animals produced 51 viable hatchling blunt-nosed leopard lizards. Some of these hatchlings will be added to the colony while the remainder are scheduled for release to the wild in

2023. Field projects supported by our Zoo included intense mark-recapture in Little Panoche Valley to complete a life-table analysis thereby providing important baseline information for assessing the success of planned repatriation efforts.

The field team also assessed habitat preferences for animals in the Little Panoche Valley population and used clay models paired with camera traps to better understand predation pressures on Panoche Plateau, our planned site for releases in 2023.

Grand Total **\$285.269.66**

The Zoo supported conservation projects in **11 countries** during 2022



# EVENTS REPORT

## Attendance for 2022 Events

|                              |              |                         |               |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Roar and Pour (Mar.)</b>  | <b>769</b>   | <b>Zoo Boo</b>          | <b>17,724</b> |
| <b>Festival de los Niños</b> | <b>9,238</b> | <b>Zoo Boo 21+</b>      | <b>675</b>    |
| <b>Roar and Pour (May)</b>   | <b>759</b>   | <b>Illuminature</b>     | <b>60,986</b> |
| <b>Dream Night</b>           | <b>649</b>   | <b>Illuminature 21+</b> | <b>1,362</b>  |
| <b>Family Pride</b>          | <b>1,553</b> |                         |               |
| <b>Ice Cream Zoofari</b>     | <b>1,139</b> |                         |               |
| <b>Safari Night</b>          | <b>476</b>   |                         |               |
|                              |              | <b>Total</b>            | <b>95,330</b> |



Safari Night



Dream Night



IllumiNature



Roar & Pour



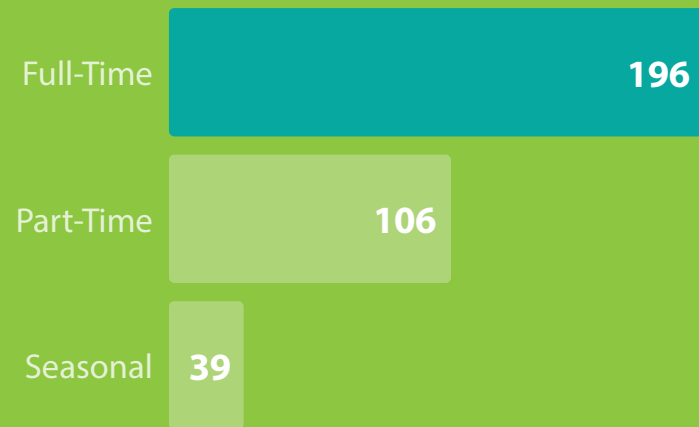
Zoo Boo



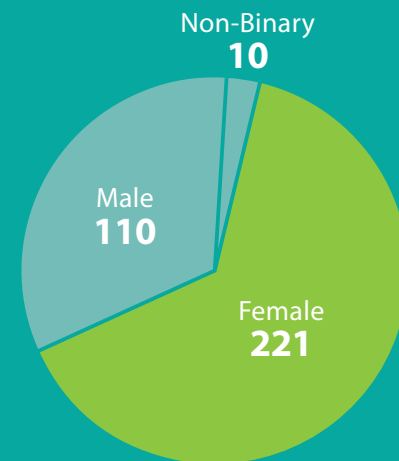
# STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

## 341 Employees

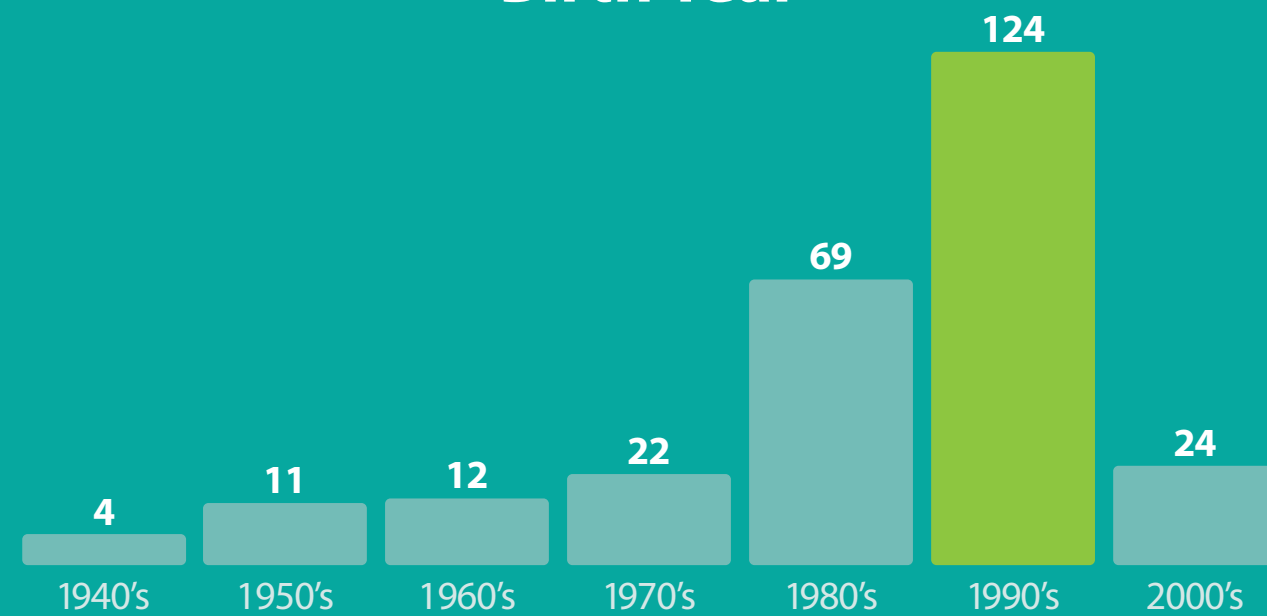
### Status



### Gender



### Birth Year



# THANK YOU

On behalf of all of us at Fresno Chaffee Zoo, we gratefully thank those who donated \$1,000 or more in 2022.

AmazonSmile  
Ampersand Ice Cream  
Anonymous  
Ashwood Construction, Inc.  
Sally Ayer  
Benevity Causes  
Jeff & Amelia Bennett  
Bernards  
Daren & Jené D'Ambrosio  
Don & Ruth Bricker  
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Babatunde & Emma Ilori  
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in California  
Paul Iwahashi  
Geno & Nicole James  
Pam Janda  
Dillon & Karina Jay

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Jonna Judd  
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Blossom Lai  
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Mitch & Linda Lautenberg  
Mendy Laval & Khaled Alkotob  
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Cody Lyman & Amber Herzog-Lyman  
Rhea MacCallum  
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Carol Nagata  
New Life Discovery Schools  
One Fresno Foundation  
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Justin & Tiffany Parnagian  
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Pepsi Bottling Group LLC  
PG&E  
Premier Valley Bank  
Proper Defense Law Corporation  
Raising Cane's  
Dennis & Nancy Ralston  
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Regency Investment Advisors  
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UCSF Fresno  
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Valley Children's Healthcare  
Valley Wide Beverage Company  
Justin & Sally Vecchiarelli  
Vulcan Materials Company  
Stella Wallace  
Terri & Jim Walls  
Betty Warkentin  
Waterhouse Animal Hospital  
Jerry & Rosemary Waters  
Scott & Michelle Weber  
Nancy Whitmore  
Ian & Allie Wieland  
Christopher & Kelly Woods  
Michael & Susan Woods  
Xobee Networks

# 2022 CONSTRUCTION & LOOKING AHEAD

The Zoo saw substantial construction progress in 2022 with the completion of Zooplex and continued work on Kingdoms of Asia. Work continues in 2023 with three more projects bringing exciting new experiences and familiar favorites to our guests.

The Conservation Action Center is underway across from Roo Walkabout. This new space will provide guests with a look into the work that goes into our blunt-nosed leopard lizard breeding and reintroduction program. It will be an anchor for the Zoo's future conservation initiatives and an opportunity to see conservation work in action. The building is funded through a series of grants provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation as well as Measure Z. We look forward to welcoming guests to this space early 2024.

There is still more to come with Kingdoms of Asia! The waterfall exhibit, originally built in 1982, has seen many animals over its

lifetime from Nosey the Asian elephant to greater one-horned rhinos. Now, the space is under renovation as we prepare to bring back Malayan tapir and Sulawesi babirusa as part of a mixed species rainforest coming 2024.

Longtime guest favorite, Valley Farm, is also receiving an update! Pass through the barn and onto the farm to learn about agriculture's past, present, and future. Guests will soon be able to get up-close with goats while learning more about the Central Valley's role in global food production.

These projects are all a part of our mission to inspire people to care for animals, make connections, build community, and save wildlife. We thank our community for their support in making this all possible.





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### **Our Mission**

To inspire people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife.

### **Your Opportunity**

Zoo memberships, donations, and sponsorships ensure that we continue fulfilling our mission now and for future generations.

[fresnochaffeezoo.org/support-the-zoo](https://fresnochaffeezoo.org/support-the-zoo)