



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



LEGACY FUND PROGRESS REPORT

January 2019



LEGACY AMENDMENT ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

FY 2018 Report Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 / January 2019

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is a statewide resource for every Minnesotan, inspiring nearly two million annual visitors with the wonders of the natural world. More than a century since its founding, Como's free admission, family-friendly accessible environment and free non-formal education programs continue to make this facility the State's most visited cultural destination.

Funding supported from the Legacy Amendment's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund allows Como Park Zoo and Conservatory to provide a variety of accessible and free programs and enhancements that interweave the arts, culture, and history for citizens of the entire State.

Funded initiatives fall into the following categories: Natural Encounters EdZooCation Programs that feature Como in the Community and Residency Program; Public Engagement Events that include Lil Explorers, Senior Strolls and Sensory Friendly Days; Special Exhibits, Garden Preservation, Habitat Renewal and Music in Nature Series.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is owned and operated by the City of Saint Paul's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Leadership: **Michelle Furrer**, Campus Manager & Director, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, **Michael Hahm**, Director, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, **Mayor Melvin Carter**

City of Saint Paul City Council: Amy Brendmoen, City Council President, Chris Tolbert, Rebecca Noecker, Mitra Jalali Nelson, Dan Bostrom, Jane L Prince, Dai Thao

Oversight of these projects is the responsibility of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory a division of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department and key senior staff. Questions about these projects may be directed to:

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Legislative Citation: Minnesota Law, Chapter 91 - HF No 707, Article 4 Sec. 2. Arts and Cultural Heritage Subd. 6.(g) of \$1,350,000 the first year and \$1,350,000 the second year are for a grant for program development that features education programs and habitat enhancements, special exhibits, music appreciation programs and historical garden access and preservation.

Source:

Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Duration:

FY 18 - July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

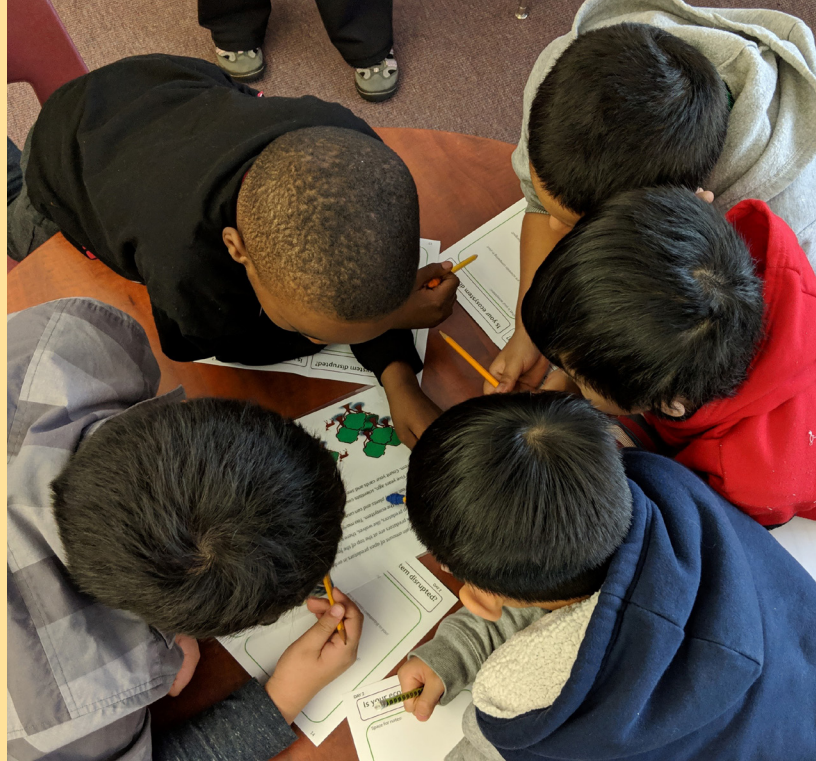
Total Funding Amount: \$1,350,000

Administrative Costs: 2% to MN

Department of Administration Grant Management \$27,000, 2% Como Administrative Costs -\$26,460

Direct Expenses: \$1,296,540

Matching Funds: \$337,500



NATURAL ENCOUNTER EDZOOICATION PROGRAMS

Como is committed to creating a legacy of learning for all Minnesotans, free of charge.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Como's Residency Program is designed to be a high-dosage program that connects elementary school classrooms with the plants and animals of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Students learn about different biomes and have the chance to apply the skills needed for STEM focused careers.

COMO IN THE COMMUNITY

Como in the Community programs are intended to get participants interested in who Como is and what Como does through movement-based activities and visits from live animals and plants. These programs are intended to reach organizations with audiences ages K-6 who do not readily have access to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

NATURE'S ENGINEERS

Nature's Engineers has three programs to choose from based on the audience age with programs for K-adult. These programs are designed to inspire and value the presence of living things in our lives through interactive programs, problem solving real-life ecosystem problems, and learning about technological advances inspired by plants and animals.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

YEP is a program for any youth entering 9th - 12th grade in the fall of 2018 who have a desire for gaining knowledge in the conservation field. YEP will offer youth a unique environment to learn from professionals in their respective field, have fun and give back to the community.

Measurable Outcomes:

- 28 weeks of Residency Programs with 696 student participants, 54 teachers, and 192 school chaperones
- Received 141 applications from 41 different schools
- Greater Minnesota participation represented 28.5% of the programs in Residency
- 83 Nature Engineer Program Offerings with 1,534 participants
- Launched the new Como in the Community Program in May 2018 with 15 programs reaching 328 participants

FUNDING & DURATION

Fiscal Year
2018 Budget

\$318,648.34

FTEs

2.49



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Como is committed to ensuring that there are program offerings accessible to all and has a long history of providing quality public engagement programs.

Outcomes:

- 43 weeks of programming featuring 91 offerings averaging 2 programs a week
- 3,743 participated in Lil Explorers
- Launched four new programs focused on equity, access and conservation-Senior Strolls, Sensory Friendly Events, ASL Days and SAFE Sundays reaching 2,219 new visitors

FUNDING & DURATION

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget
\$96,738.56

FTEs
1.1



SAFE SUNDAYS

Every Sunday a special opportunity to chat with an education staff member on an animal species and how all of us can Save Animals From Extinction – SAFE.



ASL DAYS

The first Wednesday of each month a Sign Language interpreter from SportSign translates some of Como's daily value added programs for our visitors. Other languages to our schedule as 2019 progresses.



SENSORY FRIENDLY DAYS

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is an energetic, colorful place full of sensory stimuli, and we know this environment can be overwhelming for some guests. Como has developed a few ways that we strive to provide a positive, welcoming experience for every visitor.

Special dates for an inclusive experience at Como Park Zoo & Conservatory for families have been developed. Spend time exploring exhibits and activities designed for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. A “social narrative” created in collaboration with the Autism Society of Minnesota helps visitors reduce their anxiety about new experiences by explains what to expect step by step as they explore the Campus and the “create your own visual schedule” tool on Como's website helps prepare you for your Autism Friendly Early Entry day.



MUSIC IN NATURE

Live music showcasing rich and vibrant rhythms and sounds of Minnesota's multi cultural community.

A variety of music opportunities for guests free of charge including a winter series called Music Under Glass in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and a summer series called Groovin' in the Gardens on the front lawn. These featured music series are offered FREE of charge and in times when Como would normally not be available for the public to visit. Music Mondays offer general visitors throughout the Zoo grounds to enjoy the sounds of local musicians and enhance their visit from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Measurable Outcomes:

FY 18, Como offered:

- 15 Music Monday performances
- 8 Groovin' in the Garden Dates - Wednesdays in July, August, and June
- 8 Music Under Glass Concerts - Sundays in January-March
- 73 local musical musicians had the opportunity to showcase their art in a paid performance
- Attendees to Music Under Glass and Groovin' in the Garden totaled 11,884

FUNDING & DURATION

Fiscal Year
2018 Budget
\$35,100.40

FTEs
.16



HABITAT RENEWAL

Improved interpretive graphics, added interactive elements, and expanded encounters for both the guest and animal to better make the connection to inspire the public to value the presence of living things. We focused on the final phase of Large Cats and the beginning projects of the Marine Mammal and Exhibit Gallery Lobby.

Outcomes:

- The final phase of the Large Cat Building Interactives was completed with the addition of hands on pieces that feature a curiosity rock resembling a snow leopard's natural habitat with interpretive elements that discuss the threats of this species along with cat tracking. Another interpretive element added focused on Cat Care at Como in the form of training, enrichment and research.
- Initial work has begun in the Exhibit Gallery and Marine Mammal Building for FY19

FUNDING & DURATION

Fiscal Year
2018 Budget
\$378,696.50

FTEs
.06

GARDENS

The concept of the Gardens is to provide a central pedestrian mall as the primary organizing element related to the front entrance of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory and the Visitor Center.

Outcomes:

- Final designs for two historical and cultural relevant spaces were completed
- Public openings will happen in Spring/Summer 2019

FUNDING & DURATION

Fiscal Year
2018 Budget
\$24,729.25

FTEs
.2



JAPANESE GARDEN

In the Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garden, Como designed a natural Zen walk and new exit path from the Tea House to the Pine Grove walk. Design work was completed in FY18 with construction in FY19.

CLEVELAND COURT

Cleveland Court, the final phase of the forecourt gardens that began in 2014, was designed in FY18 with completion in FY19. The space was envisioned for gardens since the 1996 master plan that recommend bringing back some of the early elements of Como Park that once stood after the Conservatory was built in 1915. This area once held outdoor gardens including Aphrodite's Garden, a Peony Garden and an Iris Garden and a pergola. The historic gardens were removed starting after 1920 and by 1974 a large parking area was installed and later moved in 2005 with the addition of the Visitor Center.

