



LEGACY FUND PROGRESS REPORT

January 2023



Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is pleased to submit our annual report on programs and projects supported by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which was created by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. This report is required by M.S. 3.303 and details outcomes for Fiscal Year 2022: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

The report of projects funded with ACHF appropriations must contain the following information:

1. The name of the project and project description;
2. The name, telephone number, members of the board or equivalent governing body, and e-mail address of the funding recipient and, when applicable, the website address where the public can directly access detailed information on the recipient's receipt and use of money for the project;
3. The amount and source of funding, including the fiscal year of the appropriation;
4. The amount and source of any additional funding or leverage;
5. The duration of the projects;
6. The number of full-time equivalents funded under the project;
7. The direct expenses and administration costs of the project;
8. Actual measured outcomes and evaluation of projects as required by statute; and
9. Specific information for each program produced and broadcast, including the cost of production, the number of stations broadcasting the program, estimated number of listeners, and other related measures. If the programs produced include educational material, the noncommercial radio station must report on these efforts.

The report must be submitted by January 15, 2023 to the Minnesota Department of Administration, the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and House of Representatives committees and divisions having jurisdiction over Arts and Cultural Heritage policy and finance.

Reporting Period: this document covers the Fiscal Year 2022 reporting period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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

Andy Rodriguez, Director, Saint
Paul Parks and Recreation

Mayor Melvin Carter

Saint Paul City Council:

Amy Brendmoen, City Council
President

Chris Tolbert

Rebecca Noecker

Mitra Jalali

Nelsie Yang

Jane L Prince

Russel Balenger

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:

Michelle Furrer

michelle.furrer@ci.stpaul.mn.us
www.comozooconservatory.org

City of Saint Paul –
Parks & Recreation
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
1225 Estabrook Drive
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LEGACY AMENDMENT ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

FY 2021 Report Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 / January 2023

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is a statewide resource for every Minnesotan, inspiring 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.

Post-COVID public operations have changed during this time period. State restrictions were lifted in late May 2021, but the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County elected to keep indoor face masks through February 2022. Como Park Zoo and Conservatory has elected to continue to use the timed-ticket reservation system for a variety of positive operational reasons, including guest experience.

Public programming was paused during COVID and began to return in Fiscal Year 2022. Uncertainty from schools for a sustained program continues to pause programming to this group, along with bus shortages.

Supply chain issues for projects have created some delays, currently over \$838,485 in spending is encumbered in Purchase Orders. The project timeline extension created budget funds from Fiscal Year 2021 to be spent in Fiscal Year 2022.

Reporting: As a recipient of funds from the ACHF, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory must abide by certain reporting requirements as stated in Minnesota Statutes § 3.303, Subd. 10, § 129D.17 Subd. 2 (d), and § 129D.19 Subd. 5. 4 According to Minnesota Statute 129D.17, Subdivision 2(d): A state agency or other recipient of a direct appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund must compile and submit all information for funded projects or programs, including the proposed measurable outcomes and all other items required under section 3.303, subdivision 10, to the Legislative Coordinating Commission as soon as practicable or by January 15 of the applicable fiscal year, whichever comes first. The Legislative Coordinating Commission must post submitted information on the website required under section 3.303, subdivision 10, as soon as it becomes available.

Source:

Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Fiscal Year 2022 Total Funding Amount: \$1,350,000

Administrative Costs: 3% to MN Department of Administration Grant Management \$40,500, 2% Como Administrative Costs -\$26,190

Duration of Projects: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

FY21 Remaining Budget: \$447,659.42

FY22: \$318,975.70

Total Expenditures: \$766,635.12

Additional Funding & Leverage: \$125,000

FTE: 8.6

COMO CARES STATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA REELS

Como Cares Stations help visitors strengthen their connection to Como through insider information about the zoo and conservatory such as animal names, personalities, highlighting special programs, and even trivia! Along with these weekly stations, Como Cares reaches a virtual audience through social media videos (Reels) that take a look at Como's plants and animals through a humorous lens.

LIL' EXPLORERS

Lil' Explorers was created to provide opportunities for families of young children to create memories while developing an appreciation for the natural world. This program provides age-appropriate, hands-on educational activities, along with story times accompanied by live plants and animals. Each story time is also interpreted through American Sign Language via an interpreter from ASL Interpreting Services. Lil' Explorers is offered Thursdays from 10 am-12 pm, year-round.

VIRTUAL SEGMENTS

COMO LIVE

Como Live: Digital Legacy Learning was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to keep visitors engaged virtually. The primary goal of Como Live was engaging the social media community with Como's extensive plant and animal collection while keeping people connected to Como's mission. To reach this goal, Como Live consisted of daily talks that premiered live on the Facebook platform, allowing visitors to interact with real-time zoo, horticulture, or educational programming. This format allowed visitors to ask questions and re-watch video segments, creating a lasting content library for the future.

ADVENTURES WITH ASHLEY

"Adventures With Ashley" was a special summer virtual series that followed Educator Ashley as she explored the Zoo and Conservatory. Each episode showcased different animals and plants, and also interviews with zookeepers and gardeners. These videos are still available on Como's website and are perfect for elementary age kids and their families, but everyone is welcome to enjoy!



Outcomes & Outputs for FY22

- Host four monthly inclusive events
- 48 total events
- 863 participants
- Support Pathway to Employment Program
- Offered weekly professional development during the summer and monthly professional development in the fall, winter, and spring with four zookeeper apprentices that began mid-June
- 52 Segments of Como Virtual Segments

- 87 episodes – 78 Como Live Segments, nine Adventures with Ashley
- 18,063 views
- 166.7K minutes viewed

Public Programs

- 20 programs
- 2,593 onsite participants, 182,000 views
- 10,100 new digital followers
- ✓ Achieved proposed outcomes

