



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



LEGACY FUND PROGRESS REPORT

January 2022



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 FY 2021: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

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 Web site 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 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 2021 reporting period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

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

Leadership:	Amy Brendmoen, City Council President
Michelle Furrer, Campus Manager & Director, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory	Chris Tolbert
	Rebecca Noecker
Michael Hahm, Director, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation	Mitra Jalali
Mayor Melvin Carter	Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul City Council:	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:

Michelle Furrer
michelle.furrer@ci.stpaul.mn.us
www.comozooconseratory.org

City of Saint Paul -
Parks & Recreation
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
1225 Estabrook Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55103



LEGACY AMENDMENT ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

FY 2021 Report Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 / January 2022

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.

COVID-19 has impacted Como Park Zoo and Conservatory in many ways. Como was reopened in late July 2020 to a limited capacity of 250 guests at one time, one-way traffic flow and required time-ticket free reservations. November-January, we were once again closed and then reopened to 150 guests. Through July, capacity limits increased and other operational restrictions were loosened. All public programming and interaction was limited and enhanced cleaning and social distancing safety become a priority. Attendance in 2020 totaled 355,948 compared to 2019 of 1,716,751 visitors. In 2021, attendance increased to 801,174 visitors.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory appreciates the response from the State of Minnesota in regards to the Legacy activities. Our workplan shifted with program changes and extensions through FY22, while many of the program activities paused during the uncertainty in the early months of the pandemic. The staff have been helpful with these changes while we adapted our operations.

As noted in the program descriptions, programs that did not achieve all proposed outcomes are still in progress through FY22.

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 Web site required under section 3.303, subdivision 10, as soon as it becomes available.

Source:

Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Duration:

FY 21 – July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Total Funding Amount: \$1,350,000

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

Direct Expenses: \$1,283,310

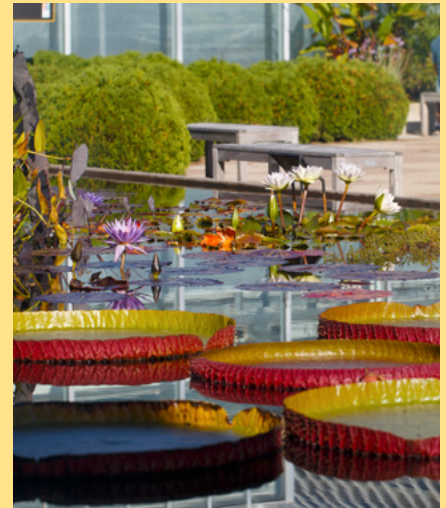
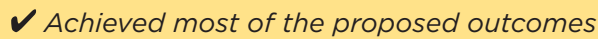
Matching Funds: \$330,000

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory has a rich history of providing formal gardens dating back to the 1800s. The Garden preservation funds will enhance the cultural history of these spaces by updating the plant materials, signage and public spaces, while maintaining the newly created, Legacy funded gardens.

Actual Spending:
\$31,146.75

Outcomes & Outputs for FY21

- Update historical relevance in one garden
- Master planning began for the Japanese Garden in June 2021
- Continue the maintenance of the Forecourt Gardens
- Guests report a 3.4% increase in appreciation of nature when visiting the Gardens



COVID-19

Actual Spending:
\$265,876.68

Outcomes & Outputs for FY21

- Daily COVID cleaning checklist
- Risk Assessments with mitigation process identified
- Execution of workplan elements for the other Legacy programs
- Visitor Safety Ambassador
- Visitors reporting a safe experience



SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Pollinators: All that Buzz. Como commissioned the development of a new, multi-year special exhibit with Outhouse Productions on the topic of pollinators. This seasonal exhibit was ready when we welcomed back guests in late July 2020 and reopened daily Memorial Day Weekend in May 2021. This special exhibit highlights pollinators from all around the world with signage, art installation and live bees for visitors to observe in an indoor 2,500 square foot greenhouse garden environment filled with pollinator plants. Live bees including the Blue Orchard Mason Bees, Alfalfa Leafcutter Bees and Eastern Bumblebees were on display in the covered enclosures so guests can safely observe them through their lifecycles.

Como hopes to inspire the public with this exhibit to take notice of the pollinators all around them and see what all the buzz is about when it comes to pollination.

FUNDING & DURATION

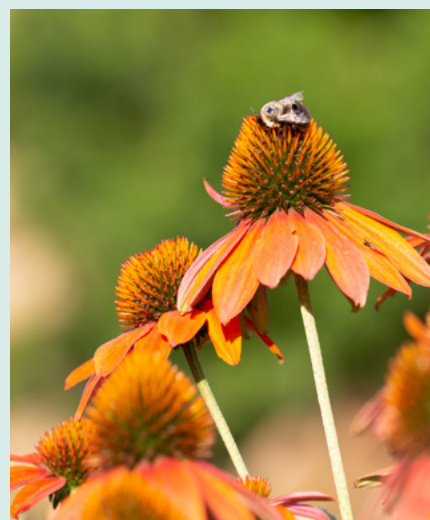
Fiscal Year
2020 Budget
\$191,216.91

FTEs
.26

Actual Spending:
\$118,199.42

Outcomes & Outputs for FY21

- Increase free access to art exhibits to Minnesotans with ways they can feel, act and learn
 - Attendance: 431,175
 - Provided a special exhibit that featured ways to connect with nature
- ✓ *Achieved most of the proposed outcomes*



MUSIC IN NATURE

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

Como's Music in Nature series features live music showcasing rich and vibrant rhythms and sounds of Minnesota's multi-cultural community. Due to COVID, we paused this program until May 2021 with the return of Music Mondays. In July 2021, Groovin' in the Garden returned.

FUNDING & DURATION

Fiscal Year
2020 Budget
\$43,386.44

FTEs
.02

Actual Spending:
\$11,660.34

Outcomes & Outputs for FY21

- Restart Groovin' in the Garden
 - Four shows returned in July 2021, planning and preparation began in FY21
 - Host Music Mondays and engage visitors
 - Six May/June 2021 dates
 - Engaged 24,195 guests
- ✓ *Achieved most of the proposed outcomes*



Improve interpretive graphics, add interactive elements, and expand encounters for both the guest and animal to better make the connection to inspire the public to value the presence of living things. The focus will be the Marine Mammal Building and Tropical Encounters.

Fiscal Year
2020 Budget
\$403,931.57

Actual Spending:
\$357,870.95

- Update 2 focused spaces
- Increase knowledge and awareness
- Increase connection to Plants & Animals
- Surveys are not yet conducted as work has not been completed

A large, curved glass display case filled with various colorful coral and sea anemone specimens, mounted on a dark blue base. A thick, dark wooden pillar stands next to the display case.

Early in the pandemic, Como pivoted our Public Engagement team to produce daily live content online. Each segment features some of Como's beloved animals and gardens, behind the scenes content, tours and tidbits. Como has used Facebook Live as the platform and reaches over 160,000 followers.

Fiscal Year
2020 Budget
\$165,909.27

Actual Spending:
\$77,086.45

- Host 4 monthly inclusive events for 7 months opened in FY21
- 28 total events
- 52 weeks of Como Live Segments
- 130 episodes
- 968,000 views
- 4,300 net followers
- 9 weeks of Pollinator Theme programs with at home curriculum
- 6 weeks of Adventure with Ashley Summer School programming