



**LEGACY AMENDMENT ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
FY 2014/2015 Report Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
January 2016**



As a recipient of funds from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF), Como Park Zoo and Conservatory must abide by reporting requirement according to **Minn.Stat. § 129D.17 Subd. 2 (d)** <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=129D.17>.

Under Minnesota 2013 Session Law, Chapter 137, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory received funding appropriations from the Legacy Amendment's ACHF for the FY 14/15 biennium of \$500,000 per year, with a required 25% match of funds.

Como has created projects that will interweave the arts, culture, and history for the guests that participate, along with increasing the number of participants and students that are exposed to arts and culture.

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

The Minnesota Department of Administration serves as the State of Minnesota's fiscal agent for Como Park Zoo and Conservatory's Legacy Amendment's ACHF funds.

Michael Hochhalter
Office of Grants Management
Minnesota Department of Administration
michael.hochhalter@state.mn.us
<http://mn.gov/administration/government/grants/>

During the biennium of FY 14/15, the projects that were funded include: 1) Music Series; 2) EdZOOcation Programs; 3) Education Residency Program; 4) Habitat Renewal; 5) Special Exhibits; and 5) Centennial Garden.

Music Series

Music Under Glass and Groovin' in the Garden are free, eight week, live music series inside the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's two-acres of tropical gardens during the winter months and out on the front lawn of the Conservatory in the summer. These concerts feature Minnesota artists and are held outside of the standard public hours and introduce the arts to a new audience. In addition, during the summer months Music Mondays featured strolling artists throughout the Zoo grounds.

Funding & Duration

Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget = \$33,382.48
Administrative Cost = \$592.14¹

July 2013 – June 2015

FTEs

.28

Measurable Outcomes

Increase use of the facility during non-open hours by 32 while providing a community venue for local musicians and bands that create memorable experiences to our guests.

EdZOOcation Programs

Lil' Explorer Thursdays

Lil' Explorers is as a free, weekly program series that attracts Como's youngest guests for their first introduction to education experiences. With interactive hands-on programming and live plant and animal visitors, the programs are designed to encourage family learning and foster early environmental awareness. Our hope is that this positive learning experience will foster a lifelong appreciation for living plants and animals.

Project Passport

Using the concept of Lil' Explorers, Como developed a summer program that was geared towards elementary age students that focused on STEAM education in a creative, hands on environment once a week.

Nature's Engineers:

Amazing technological advances have been made in all areas of science. Many of these advancements have been inspired by plants and animals. Como Park Zoo and Conservatory developed Nature's Engineers that has participants of all ages learning from nature while exploring the science of bio-mimicry. Early Engineers begins with an exploration of how scientists look to nature to help solve problems. From here, each inquiry-based program provides students with the experience of building projects using plants and animals as their models for design. Not only are the participants inspired when they meet animals with amazing adaptations, they are thrilled with the opportunity to think like real scientists and design like real engineers. These STEM based programming is offered free of charge targeting under-served communities in which financial barriers limit their access to our venue and other educational experiences at their locations.

Funding & Duration

Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget = \$51,113.81

Non-State Fund Contributions = \$14,000.00

Administrative Costs = \$694.38

FTEs

1.2

Measurable Outcomes

Increasing knowledge in conservation and making connections between living things in our lives by providing meaningful programs and opportunities that exceed guest expectations.

Lil' Explorers - The program ran September thru April FY 14 and 15 with 3,023 toddlers participated.

Project Passport ran in July thru August 2015 with over 795 participants in the first series.

Nature's Engineers was offered September thru April FY 14 and 15 with over 1,000 students participating.

Special Exhibits

Como developed new immersive, educational experiences that engaged visitors and reinforced conservation messages. Como designed, developed, and produced a variety of opportunities in seasonal exhibits including *The Edible Garden* and the *Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Centennial Exhibit*. Special exhibits in the Gallery that featured local photography and built partnerships to feature exhibitions were also included.

Funding & Duration

Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget = \$241,814.02

Non-State Fund Contributions FY 14/15 = \$78,439.00

Administrative Costs = \$3,120.75

July 2013 – June 2015

FTEs

1.85

Measurable Outcomes

Increased off-peak attendance by featuring six new exhibitions

Centennial Garden

The Centennial Garden was developed and opened in June 2015 as part of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's 100th anniversary. This project is on Como's master plan for the development of ornamental gardens in the form of a Children's Garden and Formal Garden in front of the Visitor Center. 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.

Funding & Duration

Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget = \$242,756.13

Non-State Fund Contributions FY 14/15 = \$167,366.00

Administrative Costs = \$3,587.53

July 2013 – June 2015

FTEs

.06

Measurable Outcomes

Build upon the recognition of Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's historical significance during its centennial celebration by engaging stakeholders in a new asset.

Education Residency Program

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory launched an Education Residency Program in September 2014 where school classrooms immersed themselves into Como as part of week-long learning experiences with Como's professional education staff and engaging current classroom curriculums. Teachers have described as a "living classroom". The program also offers teachers an opportunity to be engaged and assist in developing ongoing curricula that offer STEM based programs in their schools. Como's Education Residency Program won an Award of Excellence for Programming and Events from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association in 2015.

Funding & Duration

Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget = \$201,372.54

Non-State Fund Contributions FY 14/15 = \$35,000.00

Administrative Costs = \$2,918.24

December 2013 - May 2015

FTEs

2.6

Measurable Outcomes

Como welcomed 26 classes of 633 students that spent an entire week at Como.

Habitat Renewal

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. In FY 14/15, Como has focused the renewal on the African Hoofstock area.

Funding & Duration

Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget = \$219,560.90

Non-State Fund Contributions FY 14/15 = \$250,000.00

Administrative Costs = \$3,244.74

December 2013 - June 2015

FTEs

.11

Measurable Outcomes

Increase knowledge and awareness with new signage by also creating opportunities to inspire the public.

ⁱ Administrative costs were determined based on the overall FY 14/15 budget and then calculated based on project total of full grant.