



Zoo Education Exhibits Projects

Grant #108980 PO#300-4853

Project supported by the Legacy Amendment's
Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund FY 2017

Report to the Minnesota Governor and the Minnesota State Legislature

Fiscal Year 2017

Submitted by
Erik Simonson, Chief Executive Officer
Lake Superior Zoological Society

January 5, 2018



Our mission is to provide close-up animal experiences which inspire connections to wildlife and action toward conservation in our region and around the world.

INTRODUCTION

In 2008, the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, called the “Legacy Amendment,” was approved by Minnesota voters to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. The Legacy Amendment increased the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent from July 1, 2009 through 2034. This sales tax revenue is distributed into the Legacy Amendment’s four funds as follows: 19.75 percent to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, 33 percent to the Clean Water Fund, 33 percent to the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and 14.25 percent to the Parks and Trails Fund. The Lake Superior Zoological Society (Society) has received funding for several programs and projects from the Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). The ACHF supports arts, arts education and arts access, and preserves Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.¹

Appropriations, FY 2016 and FY 2017

For the State of Minnesota’s Fiscal Year (FY)² 2016-2017 biennium³ a total of \$150,000 was appropriated to the Society from the Legacy Amendment’s ACHF. Pursuant to 2015 Minnesota Session Laws, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 2, Subd. 6(1), “\$75,000 each year is for the development of the educational exhibits using animals and the environment.” According to the “Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Construction Grant Agreement for the Lake Superior Zoological Society Project” (Contract #108980 PO #300-4853) between the Society and the Minnesota Department of Administration, effective July 1, 2016:

Under the provisions contained in the aforementioned 2015 Minnesota Session Laws, the State of Minnesota has allocated \$75,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$75,000 in fiscal year 2017, less 1% for the State Entity’s administrative costs, for a total of \$147,000, which is given to the Grant Recipient as a grant for use of this project.

Payments. Payments shall terminate as of June 30, 2017, even if all of the Grant has not been disbursed by such date (p. 8).

¹ More information about the Legacy Amendment is available on the Internet at <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/>.

² The Minnesota state budget fiscal year (FY) begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year and is designated by the year in which it ends. Thus, FY 2017 begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017.

³ The Minnesota state budget operates on a biennium, which is a budget cycle covering two fiscal years. A biennium begins on July 1 of odd-numbered years. Thus, the FY 2016-2017 biennium begins July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2017.

Reporting

As a recipient of funds from the ACHF, the Society 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.

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 2017 reporting period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

⁴ Full text of these statutes is available on the Internet: 3.303, Subd. 10 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3.303>, 129D.17 Subd. 2 (d) <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=129D.17>, and 129D.19 Subd. 5 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=129D.19>.

Project Oversight and Contact Information

Oversight for these projects is the responsibility of the Lake Superior Zoological Society's Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, and key senior staff. Questions about these projects may be directed to:

Erik Simonson
Chief Executive Officer
Lake Superior Zoo
7210 Fremont Street
Duluth, MN 55807

P: (218) 730-4500, ext. 203
F: (218) 723-3750
Email: esimonson@lszoo.org
Website: www.LSZooDuluth.org

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Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Program Officer

Following is the name and contact information of the State of Minnesota's program officer for the Society's Legacy Amendment's ACHF funds.

Ariana Didion
Grants Specialist
Office of Grants Management
MN Department of Administration
P: 651-201-2503
F: 651-282-5333
Email: Ariana.Didion@state.mn.us
Website: <http://mn.gov/administration/government/grants/>

PROJECT REPORT

The Lake Superior Zoo was legislatively named to receive an appropriation from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/17 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). Per 2015 Minnesota Laws, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 2, Subd. 6(1) Lake Superior Zoo “\$75,000 each year is for development of educational exhibits using animals and the environment.”⁵

Zoo Education Exhibits project \$75,000 FY17

Project Description

The Bear Country project will create educational exhibits using animals and the environment within a portion of the area of land that is currently the former Polar Shores. The project will utilize some of this existing structure by renovating it to meet or exceed current animal exhibit standards for the brown bear set by the Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA).

The Bear Country project will offer our community and visitors from around the region a new and exciting way to learn about animals, natural ecosystems, and conservation. As a part of this project, there will be several viewing areas that provide the visitors with opportunities to observe the bears as they eat, sleep, as well as interact with each other in this exhibit and/or the public viewing into the exhibit. There will be interpretive displays that will educate the visitors about the bears, their natural habitat, diet, and their interconnections to their environment. Through the use of animal exhibits, the natural landscape, and interpretation by our environmental educators, people will receive an experience that will help them better understand and appreciate nature as they interact with it in their daily lives.

Bear Country, in its entirety, will be completed in Phase Two. The FY 2016/2017 legislative appropriation from the ACHF will be used to fund Phase One, which will include professional design services through completion of bidding documents. Construction of the Educational exhibits using animals and the environment will be during Phase Two, which will start as soon as Phase One is completed and additional funds become available.

⁵ Full text of this legislation is available at

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?year=2015&type=1&group=Session+Law&doctype=Chapter&id=2&keyword_tupe=all&keyword=lake+superior+zoo#laws.4.2.0

Phase One: professional design services through completion of design documents

Phase Two: Create Educational Exhibits Using Animals and the Environment

Phase Two of the Bear Country project will involve the demolition and renovation of the existing Polar Shores structure and the construction of a new exhibit for brown bears, the creation of educational displays using animals and the environment, and will be completed as soon as additional funds become available. The bidding documents developed during Phase One will be used to begin construction to create the educational exhibits and other interpretive elements. Our intent is to move quickly from Phase One to Phase Two and complete the Bear Country project in its entirety as soon as possible.

Amount and Fiscal Year of Legacy ACHF Funding

Source	Amount
FY 2016	\$75,000
FY 2017	\$75,000
Total	\$147,000*

*Total after subtracting the required one percent administrative fee.

Amount and Source of Additional Funding or Leverage

Source	Amount
City of Duluth (required non-state cash match)	\$12,265
Total	\$12,265

Project Duration: April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Full-time Equivalent Positions Funded: 0

Expenses: \$165,145.95

Measured Outcomes and Evaluation

Goal: To create educational exhibits using animals and the environment.

Phase One Objective:

1. Conduct professional design services through the completion of design documents.

Phase Two Objectives: (to be completed with other funds)

Convert an area of land that is currently a condemned public asset into educational exhibits using animals and the environment that includes a new bear exhibit.

1. Use the completed space to inspire visitors' connections to nature and conservation, increase knowledge and awareness about Northeast Minnesota's natural heritage, and increase zoo attendance and revenue.

Progress:

The Lake Superior Zoo has completed the stated measurable outcomes of this grant, which was to develop a complete set of design documents that will be utilized to develop construction documents necessary to facilitate the creation of educational exhibits using animals and the environment.

In April 2016, the Lake Superior Zoo contracted with PJA Architects to perform the necessary work to create the schematic design and design documents in Phase One. PJA Architects were selected for this work because this firm was already invested in the Zoo's overall concept project and thus it was deemed that having PJA continue its involvement would save time and money.

PJA Architects completed the Schematic Design work in FY 2016, and the Design documents in FY 2017. Draft documents were provided to the Lake Superior Zoo and the City of Duluth to review and approve. The outputs of this grant is a completed set of design documents, which will be used to create Construction Documents in Phase Two.

In June 2016, the Lake Superior Zoo was notified that the amount of funding for FY2017 would be reduced to less than expected sales tax revenues that fund the Legacy program. The amount for FY2017 was reduced from \$75,000 to \$71,295.

Phase Two: Create Construction documents and Educational Exhibits Using Animals and the Environment

Phase Two of the Bear Country project will involve the creation of construction documents, demolition and renovation of the existing Polar Shores structure and the construction of a new exhibit for brown bears, the creation of educational displays using animals and the environment, and will be completed as soon as additional funds become available. The design documents developed during Phase One will be used to develop the construction bidding documents. These constructions documents will then be used to create the educational exhibits and other interpretive elements. Our intent is to move quickly from Phase One to Phase Two and complete the Bear Country project in its entirety as soon as possible.