



Amphibians of Minnesota Project

Grant #130865 PO#300-6337

Project supported by the Legacy Amendment's
Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund FY 2019

Report to the Minnesota Governor and the Minnesota State Legislature

Fiscal Year 2019



Submitted by
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Lake Superior Zoological Society

January 15, 2020

Our mission is to provide close-up animal experiences that 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 2018 and FY 2019

For the State of Minnesota’s Fiscal Year (FY)² 2018-2019 biennium³ a total of \$150,000 was appropriated to the Society from the Legacy Amendment’s ACHF. Pursuant to 2017 Minnesota Session Laws, 2017 Regular Session, Chapter 91, Article 4, Section 2, Subd. 6(j), “\$75,000 each year is to develop educational exhibits and programs.” According to the “Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grant Agreement for the Lake Superior Zoological Society Project” (Contract #130865 PO #300-6337) between the Society and the Minnesota Department of Administration, effective July 1, 2017:

Under the provisions contained in the aforementioned 2017 Minnesota Session Laws, the State of Minnesota has allocated \$75,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$75,000 in fiscal year 2019, less 2% and 3% respectively, for the State Entity’s administrative costs, for a total of \$146,250, which is given to the Grant Recipient as a grant for use of this project.

Payments. Payments shall terminate as of June 30, 2019, even if all of the Grant has not been disbursed by such date (p.3).

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 2018 begins July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018.

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 2018-2019 biennium begins July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2019.

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, and § 129D.17 Subd. 2 (d).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 2019 reporting period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

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

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.

Lul Osman
Grants Specialist Intermediate
Office of Grants Management
MN Department of Administration
P: 651-201-2503
F: 651-282-5333
Email: lul.osman@state.mn.us

PROJECT REPORT

The Lake Superior Zoo was legislatively named to receive an appropriation from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19 Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). Per 2017 Minnesota Laws, Regular Session, Chapter 91, Article 4, Section 2, Subd. 6(j) Lake Superior Zoo “\$75,000 each year to develop educational exhibits and programs.”⁵

Zoo Education Exhibits project \$75,000 FY19 – Amphibians of Minnesota & the Education and Interpretation of Invertebrate and Amphibians

Project Description

The construction of a new multi-location amphibian exhibit showcasing amphibians native to Minnesota and the region; accompanied by the development of educational and interpretative components and materials.

Amount and Fiscal Year of Legacy ACHF Funding

Source	Amount
FY 2019	\$75,000
Total	\$75,000
Appropriation less Admin Fees	\$72,750*

Amount and Source of Additional Funding or Leverage

Source	Amount
Lake Superior Zoological Society	\$3,884
Total	\$3,884

Project Duration: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Full-time Equivalent Positions Funded: 3.26

Direct Expenses: \$76,634 (No administration costs incurred)

⁵https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2017/0/Session+Law/Chapter/91/?keyword_type=exact&keyword=Lake+Superior+Zoo

Measured Outcomes and Evaluation

Goal: To provide an engaging exhibit of the various amphibians found in Minnesota; increasing awareness of conservation issues related to Minnesota amphibians and invertebrates, and increasing zoo visitors who come specifically to experience the amphibian exhibit and the previously constructed butterfly exhibit.

Progress: The Lake Superior Zoo has achieved the proposed and stated measurable outcomes of the FY19 appropriation of this grant, which was to construct an engaging native amphibian exhibit and develop educational and interpretive materials and components necessary to increase awareness of conservation issues related to amphibians and invertebrates of Minnesota.

The Lake Superior Zoo completed the in-house construction of 3 stand-alone amphibian exhibits, and located them in the zoo's main building and the lobby of the nocturnal building. The exhibit(s) will not only showcase regional amphibians, but will provide the educational experience of an amphibian's lifecycle from tadpole to maturity, interactive/interpretive pieces will provide audible identification of the calls of various species of frogs, and will interpret their value and the important role they play in the earth's eco-system.

The FY19 grant appropriation encompassed the continued education and interpretation of butterflies (invertebrates) and added the native Minnesota frog (amphibian) exhibit. While the Amphibians of Minnesota exhibit had just launched at the end of the state's fiscal year, random visitor surveys were continued to measure guest satisfaction of the butterfly exhibit, the guest experience within the exhibit, and the value of the educational opportunities it afforded. There was continued overwhelming support of the exhibit, with 99.9% of respondents reporting that they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the exhibit and the experience. Of those surveyed, 99% reported that they experienced butterflies 'up close', and 90% reported engaging with staff and learning something new.

Overall, the FY19 project was an overwhelming success, meeting goals and achieving desired outcomes. The Lake Superior Zoo wishes to express their gratitude to the Legislative Coordinating Commission, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee, the House Legacy Funding Finance Committee, and the Department of Administration for their support in this project.

