Change is everywhere at the Sacramento Zoo. In June, the Society welcomed Kyle Burks as our new Executive Director and CEO. Hearing his ideas and enthusiasm, shaped by his experience at the Denver Zoo and the Walt Disney Co., we knew we had the innovator we were seeking to help chart our future. Kyle has quickly adapted to his new city and its beloved Zoo.

You can witness change on Zoo grounds with new animals on exhibit and substantial restroom upgrades. Major fundraising continued in 2015 for a new exhibit complex, including renovation of our Reptile House, to illuminate the biodiversity of the planet. We owe special thanks to the Ingoglia family for their generosity and leadership in helping to finance the Zoo’s new Biodiversity Center.

Change is also happening behind the scenes as we prepare for the next 20 years. In 2010 and 2011, the city and the Zoological Society conducted a study of the feasibility of expanding the Zoo or moving it to a new site. After a thorough community-wide review, we decided to stay in Land Park. However, to make that possible, we must undertake some major changes at our 88-year-old, 14-acre home.

Beginning in late 2015, with the Society’s support, Kyle launched a Master Plan Process. This will provide us a site assessment of the grounds (and whatever decades of secrets lie beneath), a cohesive conceptual design of our future facilities, and an action plan for successfully making those improvements.

Stay tuned. We’ll be reaching out to the community as part of the planning effort and invite you to be part of the Zoo’s transformation for the future.

Jeff Raimundo
President
Board of Trustees
2015 was a meaningful and exciting beginning to my personal journey here in Sacramento and the continuing journey of our great Zoo. When I joined the Zoo’s team, I was honored and humbled – and as happy and thrilled as I have ever been in my professional career!

I was drawn to this Zoo for a myriad of reasons. It has a solid record of being a leader in the zoo world, with a rich history of sound mission delivery. It is strongly supported by the Sacramento community, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, and a passionate and professional staff that cannot be matched. Its financial foundation is strong and growing stronger.

The Board and I defined the top priorities for the Zoo moving forward. We laid the groundwork to develop two critical tools for our future: a new Strategic Plan to help us chart our course and a new Master Plan to define the exciting future of the physical campus and animal collection for the coming decades. These are game-changing efforts that continue into 2016, and will help us create the Sacramento Zoo of the future. We retained a world-renowned zoo design firm for the full-scale (pun intended) renovation of the current Reptile House into a Biodiversity Center that will celebrate the true diversity of the animal world.

Planning efforts were by no means the only accomplishments of 2015. Throughout the year, the Zoo continued to deliver exciting animal experiences daily, and record-breaking attendance of over 550,000 guests is great testimony to the Zoo’s history as a cornerstone jewel in the community. The generosity of loyal members and visitors helped us raise more than $150,000 for animal conservation efforts around the world. And, lest we forget the real stars of the Zoo, our beloved animal collection continues to receive uncompromising care as they inspire and delight us all.

Yes, 2015 was a very, very good year.

Kyle Burks, PhD
Executive Director/CEO
Inspiration. Education. Conservation. Three words sum up the Sacramento Zoo. Just as every visit to the Zoo brings new experiences, 2015 delivered exciting changes.

Dr. Kyle Burks joined the Zoo team as Executive Director/CEO in June, adding his energy, expertise and vision to the organization. Under his leadership, the Zoo continues to thrive as a treasured cultural amenity of the Sacramento region.

The Zoo broke previous attendance records in 2015, connecting with 555,745 visitors who shared quality time with family and friends. With breathtaking Zoo animals as the main attraction, 21,303 additional guests also enjoyed special events ranging from Wild Affair and Boo at the Zoo to Summer Camp or an Overnight Safari.

The Zoo greeted numerous new arrivals: eight Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies, a Great Horned Owl, three Grevy’s Zebras, a female Jaguar and a male Sumatran Tiger. Births included a Mongoose Lemur infant and two Black and White Ruffed Lemur babies, as well as seven endangered Western Pond Turtle hatchlings.

The national SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) campaign launched in May to coincide with Endangered Species Day. The Sacramento Zoo hosts a variety of activities to bring attention to declining species such as the Western Pond Turtle, the only turtle native to California. Through SAFE, zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) will convene scientists and stakeholders globally to identify the
factors threatening species, develop Conservation Action Plans, collect new resources, and engage the public on the plight of endangered animals.

It was another busy year in the Dr. Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital ensuring all of the Zoo animals receive the highest quality care. Nearly all animals receive annual physical exams that include routine vaccinations, blood work and twice-yearly fecal examinations. The veterinary staff also provides care for new arrivals at the Zoo while they are in quarantine. Most animals go through a minimum 30-day quarantine period to make sure they are healthy before joining the Zoo’s collection. In addition to teaching veterinary students on rotation at the Sacramento Zoo and in the classroom at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, vet staff is involved in a number of conservation projects including placing radio transmitters in wild Giant Garter Snakes.

The Green Team, a group of dedicated staff members, implements green practices within the Zoo. ReSoil Sacramento is a community network that collects fruit and vegetable scraps to make rich compost for local farms, schools and urban gardens. Run by the Green Restaurants Alliance Sacramento (GRAS), ReSoil now makes two weekly pickups at the Zoo averaging 100 pounds of compost per week. With over 500 mouths to feed and a wide variety of different diets, the animals go through a large quantity of fruits and vegetables daily, not all pieces of which are safe for them to eat (stems, pits, peels, etc.).

Kampala Café joins the green effort with a new reusable basket program, saving over 2,000 pounds of waste each year. The Kids Live Well Program, focusing on proper portions and healthy nutrition, now inspires all children’s meals served at the Zoo.

We would like to extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to the 1,745 dedicated volunteers who donate their energy, caring and creativity. In 2015, this hard-working group volunteered 48,392 hours to the Zoo assisting in a variety of departments and tasks. Whether they work with animal care staff, scoop ice cream at a fundraiser, speak with schoolchildren on a fieldtrip, or lend their professionalism to the organization by serving on the Board of Trustees, we thank them for their enthusiasm and passion for the animals and our much-loved Zoo.
The Sacramento Zoo is committed to local and global conservation projects. More than $150,000 was raised in 2015 for over three dozen animal conservation organizations. Programs included working with local communities to protect native species, aiding in medical care for injured animals, and monitoring...
species and their habitats. Quarters for Conservation continues to be a visitor favorite, with wishing wells giving Zoo guests the opportunity to weigh in on their favorite programs. The Snow Leopard Conservancy, Giant Anteater/Armadillo program, and the local Tri-colored Blackbird program were featured during the year.

Support for conferences, workshops and worldwide programs are not listed on the map.

A special note of thanks to the Zoo’s AAZK (American Association of Zoo Keepers) Chapter for raising over $8,000 for conservation through events such as Red Panda Day and Dining for Rhinos.

35. Spectacled Bear Research & Conservation, Peru
36. Sumatran Tiger Conservation, Sumatra
37. Thick-billed Parrot Conservation, Mexico
38. Tri-colored Blackbirds, California
40. Vulture Education/Conservation, South Africa
41. Wildlife Care Association, California
42. Zoo Conservation Outreach Group, Worldwide
EDUCATION

The Sacramento Zoo has an extensive selection of educational experiences for children and adults.

From onsite stage shows and keeper chats to Overnight Safaris and summer camp – there is something for everyone. A brand new ZooMobile, funded with a generous grant from the Foster Family Charitable Foundation, took Zoo programs on the road. A Nature Play grant from AZA and Disney created an innovative Nature Explorers program that will begin in 2016.

Zoo staff, docents and volunteers connected with a total of 171,312 individuals, providing inspiring messages about animals and their habitats as well as the importance of our role in preserving wildlife and wild places.

FACES AT THE ZOO

The Zoo is home to 558 animals representing 133 species. Of that number, 79 species are in danger of going extinct (listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable). Of the species housed at the Zoo, 59 are managed cooperatively as part of the Zoo’s participation in programs of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums.
This statement presents a brief overview of the Sacramento Zoological Society’s financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2015. To review a complete copy of the audited Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants with all accompanying notes, please refer to the Society’s website saczoo.org.
ROUND OF APPLAUSE

IT IS WITH HEARTFELT APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE THAT WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND SPONSORS.

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Baskin-Robbins
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Victor & Karen Binsacca
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The Wildlife Heritage Guild is a group of special individuals who have remembered the Sacramento Zoological Society in their estate plans. Our nonprofit depends on the generosity of private contributions from those who value the Sacramento Zoo and its role in their lives and the community.

For more information on how you can be part of your Zoo’s future, call the Development Department at 916.808.3713.