



MINNESOTA ZOO

FY 2024 – FY 2025 Budget Request Summary

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND REQUEST FOR FY 2024 - FY 25 biennium \$4,000,000

The Minnesota Zoo is one of the State’s premier cultural and educational institutions. As the State’s largest environmental learning center, the Zoo is in a unique position to strengthen Minnesotans’ awareness and understanding of our State’s cultural commitment to wildlife, science, natural history and conservation.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Appropriations	
	~\$265,000 for FY 10 - FY 11
2011	\$3,000,000 for FY 12 - FY 13
2013	\$3,500,000 for FY 14 - FY 15
2015	\$3,500,000 for FY 16 - FY 17
2017	\$3,500,000 for FY 18 – FY 19
2019	\$3,500,000 for FY 20 – FY 21
2021	\$3,900,000 for FY 22 – FY 23
2023	\$4,000,000 for FY24 – FY25

The Minnesota Zoo requests \$4,000,000 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for the FY 24 – FY 25 biennium to be spent in three program categories:

- **Animal Connections**
- **Access, Outreach and Education**
- **New Exhibits, Events, Arts**

Animal Connections



The passion to save Minnesota’s wildlife is derived as a result of connecting to wildlife. The Zoo’s Animal Ambassadors Program ensures Zoo guests have the opportunity to interact with animals and professional animal care staff onsite and around the state.

The Wells Fargo Family Farm provides an opportunity—at the Zoo—for guests to connect with our State’s strong farming heritage during an extended season, including the popular Farm Babies weekends.



Access, Outreach, and Education

The Minnesota Zoo’s ZooUnlimited initiative strives to ensure that everyone – people of all cultures, communities, abilities, and backgrounds – has an equal chance to connect with the natural world.



Zoo Free to Explore: The Zoo provides free daytime admission for qualifying guests and their dependents.

Zoo Maps: The Zoo offers maps in eleven different languages including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hmong, Japanese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese

MNZOO4ALL: *The Zoo offers a specialized application for all guests, including those with autism or disabilities, that allows guests to preview our spaces and experiences with social guides, customizable visual schedule and sensory friendly map.*

New Exhibits, Events, Arts



Opening Spring 2023, Dino Hideout will be included with guest admission and offers inclusive play features while guests walk among incredibly realistic dinosaurs.

At Llama Trek, zoo guests will be able to walk among free-roaming llamas and come face-to-face with these friendly and fun animals. Llama Trek is included with general Zoo admission. For an additional fee, feed a llama or walk a llama on the designated llama walk path.





Wild Nights, a 21+ festival series featuring live music, artisan vendors, and food and drink - all in support of wildlife conservation in Minnesota and around the globe.

Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular boasts 5,000 pumpkins hand-carved by the most renowned pumpkin artists, taking guests on a magical journey celebrating history and culture from Minnesota and around the world. More than 100,000 guests attend this fall event each year!



The Minnesota Zoo is proud to create programs and experiences that highlight our mission, support a smart diversified business model, and prioritize diversity and inclusion.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds ensure the Minnesota Zoo can continue to grow programs committed to connecting all Minnesotans to the natural world.

Questions? Contact Missy McGrath, Director of Legislative Affairs
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