



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020



**Friends of the
Palo Alto Junior
Museum and Zoo**

To Our Supporters,



The year 2020 has been a year of unprecedented challenge, and our nation and local community continue to grapple with the impact of COVID-19 on our lives and institutions. Along with other non-essential businesses, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ) temporarily closed this past spring during the Shelter-in-Place and also suspended the in-classroom science lessons the Friends provide through our Science Outreach Program. Construction of the new Junior Museum and Zoo was halted during this time as well.

After a six-week pause, we resumed construction with new safety procedures in place. The JMZ was previously on-track to reopen this fall, but due to the construction delay as well as the challenges of acclimating new animals and operating during a pandemic, the City of Palo Alto now anticipates reopening in 2021. We are excited to share more details with our supporters as we approach our Grand Reopening.

The Shelter-in-Place also required Junior Museum and Zoo Educators to rethink how their innovative, hands-on science programming could be delivered virtually to underserved students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. JMZ Educators quickly pivoted and immediately produced engaging science lessons for students to view on YouTube. They adapted their ever-popular summer camps to provide a safe in-person experience. They also deployed virtual summer camp programs to meet the needs of families who were unable to participate in the in-person summer camps. During virtual summer camps, children were able to meet JMZ animals and get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at how we care for them.

The Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo remains committed to funding vital science programming for underserved students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park through the Friends' Science Outreach Program. At this time it is uncertain if the entire school year will remain virtual or if students will resume in-person instruction, but we have heard from teachers and leaders at our recipient schools that our program is needed now more than ever.

We hope you will consider making a contribution to our Annual Fund this year. With your help, the Friends' Board of Directors will ensure that the Junior Museum and Zoo has the necessary funding and support to continue providing critically needed science education to underserved students at a time when inequities in education are more apparent than ever at both the local and national level.

Once again, thank you so much for your support. We are grateful for your commitment to the beloved Junior Museum and Zoo.

Aletha Leong Coleman, *Co-President*

Lauren Angelo, *Co-President*

Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo

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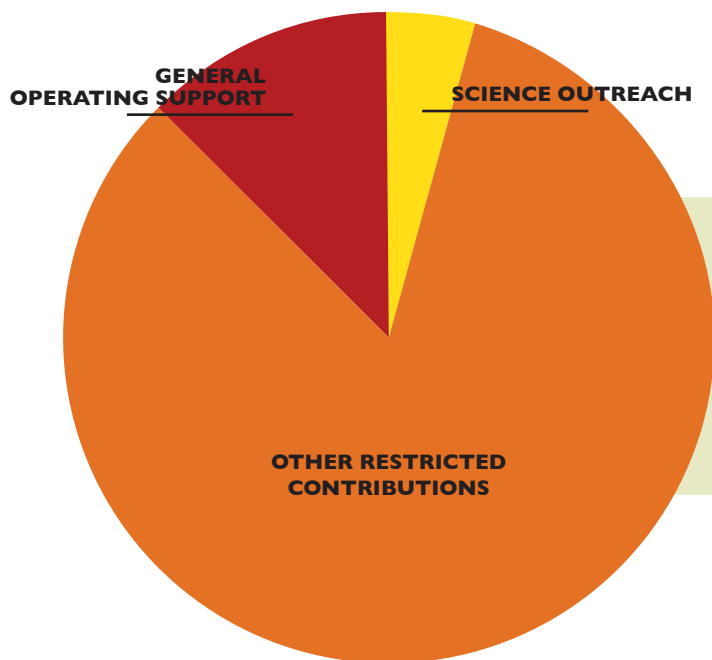
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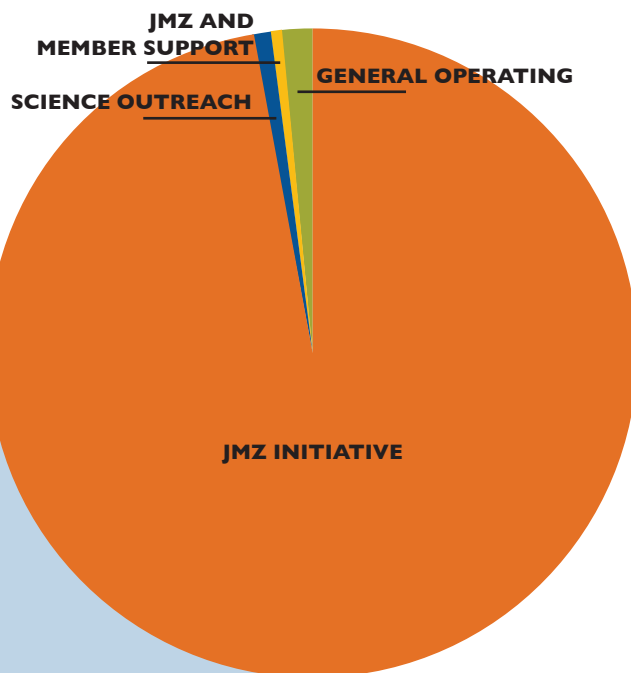
Revenue and Expenses

Revenue



Science Outreach	\$71,849
Other Restricted Contributions	\$1,292,023
General Operating Support	\$195,174
<hr/>	
Total Revenue	\$1,559,046

Expenses



Programs:

JMZ Initiative	\$11,985,571
Science Outreach	\$91,975
JMZ and Member Support	\$8,711
General Operating	\$217,228

Total Expenses	\$12,303,485
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“The JMZ has filled a critical need for us during the pandemic by providing access to top notch science education when our scholars need it most!”

– Mikey Decaro, EPA Charter Instructional Aide

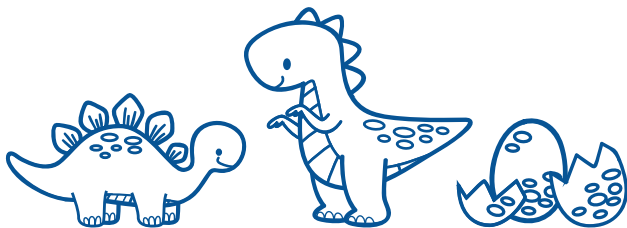
Getting Ready for the New Junior Museum and Zoo



Construction of the new Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo began in July 2018 and is nearly complete. Although work was temporarily halted during the initial phase of the Shelter-in-Place, we are pleased to share that construction resumed as soon as we received the green light from the City. Work on the museum was completed this summer, and the zoo should be completed this fall. At this time, we anticipate reopening in 2021.

We are excited that we will soon be able to unveil the new JMZ to the community and to our supporters. The reimagined Junior Museum and Zoo will be a destination for young children and their families to engage in hands-on play and early-science education, and to interact with new and beloved animals in the zoo. Visitors will be delighted with a Ball Machine that has nearly doubled in size, and a Tree House where children will have the extraordinary experience of safely climbing and exploring up among birds and branches out over the zoo. Under this treetop canopy, children will be able to survey both the JMZ and the adjacent Rinconada Park.

Exciting recognition opportunities are still available in our new museum and zoo. Please contact us if you are interested in sponsoring a new exhibit: info@friendsjmz.org.



California Dinosaur Garden

For our next capital campaign, we are excited to begin raising funds for an incredible exhibit that will open in 2023: The California Dinosaur Garden. The California Dinosaur Garden will create a “living diorama” that interprets the Cretaceous period in California. The garden will feature prehistoric plants within a seasonal marsh landscape, life-size dinosaurs, prehistoric animal sculptures, and interactive interpretive exhibits, including a Fossil Dig. Exhibits will be fully inclusive, including wheelchair access to the fossil dig, braille labels, and tactile, sensory-rich elements for children of all abilities.



Benches

We invite you to help support the cost of finishing touches to the new Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo by donating a bench. Benches will be located near the front entrance of the JMZ, inside the Dawn Redwood Courtyard, and in the outdoor zoo. These benches will provide places throughout the new facility where parents and their children can relax and take a break.

Science Outreach Program



Photo Credit: Scott Nakajima

The Science Outreach Program delivers exceptional science programs to elementary school students in local, underserved communities. In previous years, these engaging science lessons took place in school classrooms, on-site at the JMZ, and outdoors at the Baylands Nature Preserve. When schools transitioned to remote learning to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the inequities experienced by students in underserved communities increased. JMZ staff worked with educators to ensure students continued to have access to high-quality JMZ science experiences by designing and leading engaging virtual lessons. The Friends' Board of Directors is committed to fully funding the Science Outreach Program – whether virtual or in-person – so that our youngest students continue to receive an equitable science education during the COVID-19 pandemic. This academic year, the JMZ will deliver science materials kits and nearly 500 virtual lessons to more than 2,000 underserved students.

Super Family Sundays and Accessibility Work



Photo Credit: Lisa Eriksen

Super Family Sundays are special events for families who have children with disabilities. These events are free and provide exclusive access to the Junior Museum and Zoo in a calm and friendly environment. Thanks to donor funding, the JMZ served 171 children and family members during three events before the facility closed for the Shelter-in-Place.

In addition to participating in three events over the last year, Super Family Sunday families were also asked for feedback on new exhibit prototypes, calming elements, and experiences in the new JMZ. Working together with these families and other partners, we will ensure that the new JMZ is as welcoming as possible for children of all abilities.

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Thank you for your donation to the JMZ Initiative.
We couldn't have done it without you.

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GRAND REOPENING: 2021

Sneak Preview of the new Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo!



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