



FRIENDS OF THE
PALO ALTO

JUNIOR
MUSEUM & ZOO

Annual Report

July 2021 - June 2022





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All photos by Artem Nazarov

Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo

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TO OUR SUPPORTERS,

It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since the reopening of the newly rebuilt Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ). It has been incredible to see the wonder and excitement in children's faces as they climb and explore up among birds and branches out over the zoo, or experiment with the kinesthetic exhibits in the expanded exhibit hall. This new facility was made possible by our supporters, and it has truly become a special and welcoming place for children of all abilities to engage with nature and science.

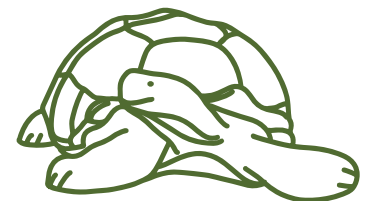
Our mission at the Friends is to support and enhance the JMZ, and this year we undertook and successfully completed a capital campaign to raise \$300,000 for the *California Dinosaur Garden*, a new exhibit scheduled to open in 2023. Funds raised will supplement a grant awarded to the JMZ by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to make this incredible exhibit a reality. New exhibits like the *California Dinosaur Garden* will ensure the JMZ remains a destination for children and their families for generations to come. Thank you again to everyone that contributed.

We also continue our fundraising efforts and work to expand access to science education, a key priority for the Friends. One of our longest running programs, which brings the JMZ's science lessons to elementary school children in the Ravenswood City School District and East Palo Alto Charter School, served 1,590 students through 414 in-person lessons during the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, the Friends brought science lessons to even more young learners by funding the *Science With a Twist* program at the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula. You can find details about these programs, as well as other opportunities to support our work, on page four. We are excited to expand our community outreach even more over the coming year.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our donors who allow us to fund these impactful programs. Thank you for being a valued member of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo community!

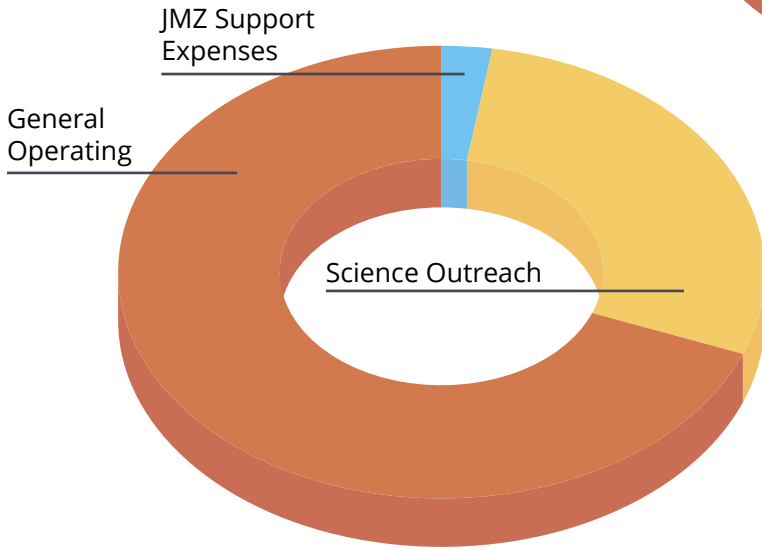
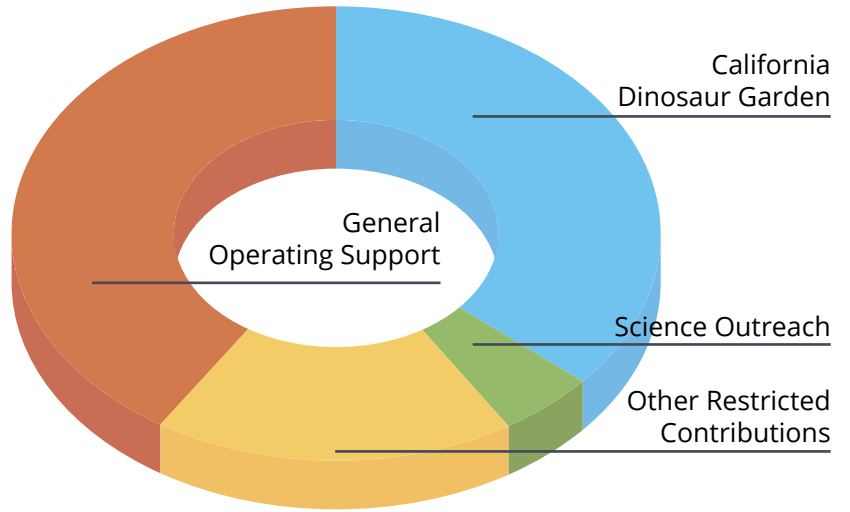
Lauren Angelo, President

Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo



REVENUE

California Dinosaur Garden	\$274,858
Science Outreach	\$36,585
Other Restricted Contributions	\$136,518
General Operating Support	\$309,924
Total Revenue	\$757,886



EXPENSES

Programs:

JMZ Support Expenses	\$7,813
Science Outreach	\$87,786
General Operating	\$213,903
Total Expenses	\$309,502






SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

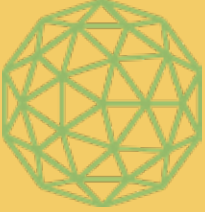
The Friends and the City of Palo Alto are dedicated to creating an inclusive community, which brings together families, schools and educators, JMZ staff and volunteers. To that end, the Friends continues fundraising for programs and hosting events that expand access and promote inclusion. Our primary pillars are:

COMMUNITY & ACCESS


We are committed to ensuring that the JMZ and its programming remains accessible to everyone, regardless of physical or cognitive abilities or ability to pay admission.

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- Since 2010, the Friends has funded Super Family Sunday events at the JMZ for families who have children with disabilities. These events are free and provide exclusive access to the Junior Museum & Zoo in a calm and friendly environment. Over the past year, Super Family Sundays have welcomed approximately 900 visitors.
 - In an effort to build partnerships with our surrounding communities, the Friends funded a new community outreach coordinator position (beginning 2023) in order to learn more about underrepresented visitor interactions with the JMZ and create opportunities to better serve them.
 - Collaborating with organizations devoted to education and community is important to us. For example, this past spring, we worked with the Young, Gifted and Black Club (YGB) to host a night of fun for children and their families.

CLASSROOMS & EDUCATION




The Friends are passionate about accelerating educational equality for children in equity-impacted communities. Through educators and nonprofit organization partners, children are invited to discover and cultivate a passion for early STEM education as the foundation for future academic and career success.

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- Since 1999, The Friends has funded the JMZ's Science Outreach Program in the Ravenswood City School District and East Palo Alto Charter School. This program ensures that elementary school children in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park receive exceptional, engaging science programming, right in their classrooms. In the 2021-2022 school year, JMZ educators served 1,590 students through 414 in-person lessons across all elementary schools in the district.
 - In addition, the Friends collaborated this year with the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP) to bring *Science With a Twist* to their East Palo Alto clubhouse. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto, the after-school program was offered for free to 1st and 2nd grade students. Over a total of 18 weeks, 50 students received engaging science lessons at the clubhouse.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

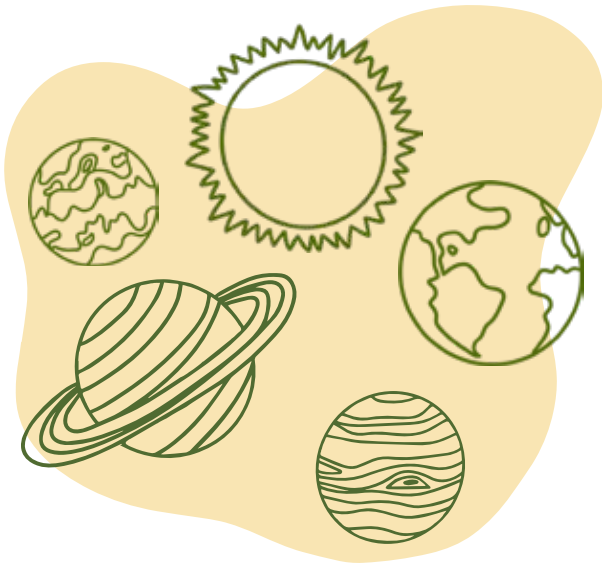
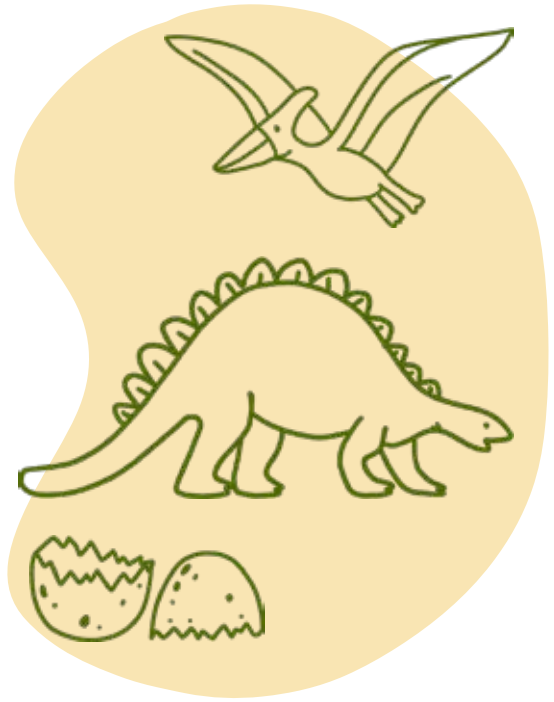
We are dedicated to constantly learning more about the communities we serve and how we can best address their needs through the JMZ and its programming.

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- The Friends funds Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for staff at the JMZ, as well as Friends' staff and board members.
 - Made possible through a generous grant from Acton Family Giving, the Friends awarded the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo funds for an evaluation on how to broaden community access and better serve underrepresented visitors.

AN EXCITING YEAR FOR EXHIBITS

CALIFORNIA DINOSAUR GARDEN

This past spring, with the support of the board and many generous donors, the Friends successfully raised \$300,000 for the *California Dinosaur Garden*, a special exhibit that will open in 2023. The funds raised for this exhibit supplement a grant made by the Institute of Library and Museum Services in order to actualize this project. As an immersive experience of 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, providing wheelchair access to the fossil dig, braille labels, and tactile, sensory-rich elements for children of all abilities.



VOYAGE SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL

A new JMZ exhibit, the *Voyage Solar System Model*, officially opened in May 2022 thanks to the support of Friends' donors. The exhibit is a 1 to 10-billion scale model of the Solar System. All the dimensions in this model, including the size of and distance between planets, are created to scale. Beginning with the Sun near the JMZ and ending with Pluto at the Palo Alto Rinconada Park Library, this exhibit reveals the vast expanse of the universe and our place in it. As a free outdoor exhibit, the *Voyage Solar System Model* is available to the public during and outside of the JMZ's operating hours.



Thank you so much to our donors, who help to support the Science Outreach Program, Annual Giving Fund, Corporate Sponsorship Program, JMZ Initiative, and other special projects.

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California Dinosaur Garden Donors

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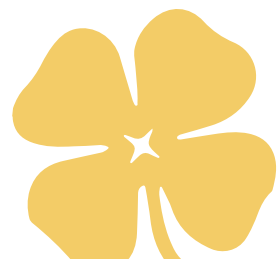
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