



FRIENDS OF THE  
PALO ALTO

**JUNIOR**  
MUSEUM & ZOO

# Annual Report

July 2022 - June 2023



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## Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo

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Photo Credit: Artem Nazarov

## TO OUR SUPPORTERS,

The Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ) continues to amaze and excite visitors with all that it has to offer our community. By the time you read this, the *California Dinosaur Garden* will be open to the public, inviting young visitors and their families to experience the wonder of prehistoric California, amid life-size replicas of dinosaurs, from our towering state dinosaur to foot-tall birds. Dinosaurs capture the imagination of many young children, making the garden the perfect introduction to exciting scientific topics such as fossils, extinction, and evolution. This incredible exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services and the generous contributions of our donors.

One of the core goals of our fundraising efforts is to make science education more accessible in our community. The Friends continues to ignite a passion for STEM in students by funding the JMZ's Science Outreach Program in the Ravenswood City School District and East Palo Alto Charter School, as well as the *Science with a Twist* after-school program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's East Palo Alto Clubhouse. We are excited to share that both of these programs are expanding into Redwood City soon. You can learn more about the Friends' community outreach and how to support these wonderful initiatives on page five.

The Friends also continues to support programs and host events that expand access and promote inclusion. In addition to Super Family Sundays, we hosted events for nonprofits such as Friendship Circle and CoolineKids. Tailored to the needs of each organization, these events created special experiences for visitors, and introduced the magic of the JMZ to many new families. To learn more about these events and our partners, turn to page five.

In line with our mission to support and enhance the JMZ, the Friends hosts free monthly events for JMZ visitors, including educational activities, animal interactions, storytimes, and crafts. This year also marked the return of the Friends' annual Halloween event in which attendees explored the JMZ after dark amongst cobwebs and critters. We hope you will join us at an upcoming event!

Thank you for being an important part of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo community.

With gratitude,

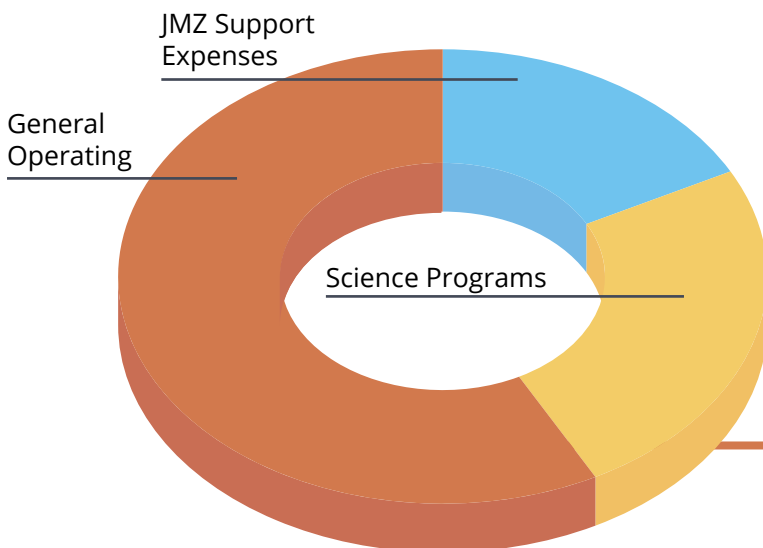
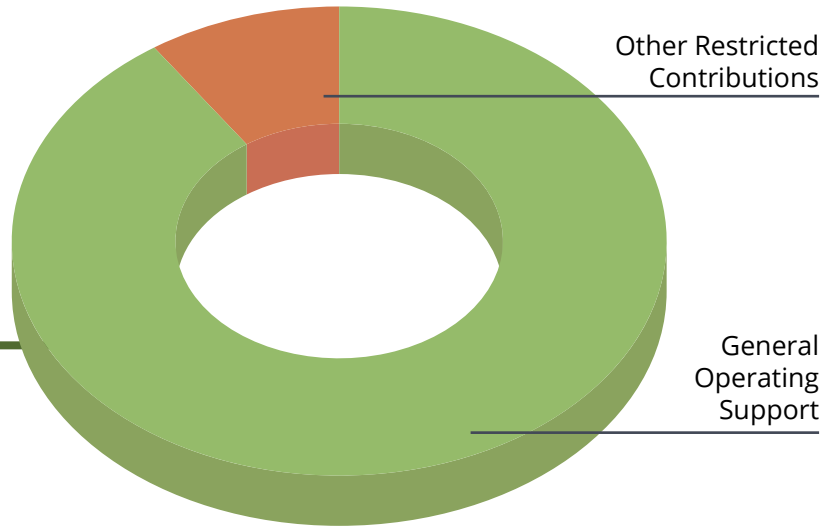
**Lauren Angelo, President**  
*Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo*



Photo Credit: Artem Nazarov

## FUNDRAISING REVENUE

General Operating Support	\$378,793
Other Restricted Contributions	\$40,026
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$418,819</b>



## EXPENSES

Programs:	
JMZ Support Expenses	\$71,557
Science Programs	\$102,509
General Operating	\$238,390
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$412,456</b>

# NEW AT THE PALO ALTO JUNIOR MUSEUM & ZOO

## THE CALIFORNIA DINOSAUR GARDEN

The *California Dinosaur Garden* opened fall 2023 thanks to the generosity of Friends donors and the Institute of Museum & Library Services. This living diorama of the Cretaceous period in California transports visitors back in time to the age of dinosaurs. Under the branches of the Dawn Redwood, children and their families can scale the climbable Ankylosaur before digging for the fossil of a massive aquatic reptile. The life-size sculptures dotting the exhibit are the most accurate on display anywhere according to the JMZ's scientific advisors, making this experience truly exceptional.



## FRIENDS' EVENTS

This year, the Friends hosted free monthly events for visitors to the JMZ. From storytimes to animal interactions, these events offer something fun and educational for everyone. During World Turtle Day, for example, visitors got the chance to meet a variety of turtles and take a stroll with Edward the Tortoise in the zoo. We also hosted **Halloween at the JMZ!** for the first time at the new JMZ in October 2022, reviving a beloved tradition. Sharing treats with our community and critters created a memorable experience for the whole family to enjoy. Proceeds from the Halloween event go to the Friends' Annual Giving Fund, which includes support for programs that expand access to science education in the community.



## COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Friends and the City of Palo Alto strive to make the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo and its programs inclusive and accessible. By partnering with schools, educators, and other nonprofit organizations, we continue to fundraise for programs and experiences that address the needs of our community.

## COMMUNITY & ACCESS

The JMZ is a valuable community resource. We are dedicated to keeping the JMZ accessible to everyone, regardless of physical or cognitive abilities or ability to pay admission.

- This year, the Friends hosted quarterly events at the JMZ for affinity groups. We welcomed CoolineKids, an organization that provides free camps to K-5th graders in East Palo Alto; Friendship Circle, an organization that connects special needs kids and teens and their families with teen volunteers; LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- We continue to fund Super Family Sunday events at the JMZ for families who have children with disabilities. Since 2010, these free events have cultivated a friendly and calm atmosphere for families by creating a private experience at the JMZ. We supported 10 Super Family Sunday events this year and welcomed nearly 900 visitors.



## CLASSROOMS & EDUCATION

Central to our mission is expanding access to science education. We are committed to bringing STEM programming to communities impacted by inequity through partnering with the JMZ and other nonprofit organizations.

- Established in 1999, the JMZ's Science Outreach Program in the Ravenswood City School District and East Palo Alto Charter School brings hands-on science lessons to the classroom. This year, in an effort to expand our impact, we had the opportunity to fund programs at the Primary School in East Palo Alto and two schools in the Redwood City Elementary School District. In total, we served over 1,700 students with nearly 400 programs during the 2022-2023 school year.
- For the second year in a row, we funded Science with a Twist, the JMZ's after-school program, at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's East Palo Alto Clubhouse. Each week, from November to May, JMZ educators taught 47 free lessons, which included hands-on science experiments and introductions to the JMZ's animal ambassadors, to 50 first and second grade students. We plan to bring this program to more BGCP locations starting early 2024.
- The JMZ's ever popular summer camps are wonderful experiences for children. We provided 18 camp scholarships to students, and funded post-camp and transportation for additional support.



## CONTINUOUS LEARNING

The Friends recognizes that the needs of our community continuously transform, and we continue to set priorities and goals that best serve families, children, and partner organizations.

- The Friends funded a supplemental Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop for JMZ staff, Friends staff, and board members.





Photo Credit: Steve Debenport



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

## Annual Giving Fund

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Photo Credit: Artem Nazarov

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Pizza My Heart  
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Trader Joe's  
Winter Lodge

### Loyalty Programs

AmazonSmile





Photo Credit: Artem Nazarov



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