



FRIENDS OF THE
PALO ALTO

Junior
MUSEUM & ZOO

Annual Report

July 2023 - June 2024

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Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo

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TO OUR SUPPORTERS,

This year represented a major milestone for our organization as we celebrated the 25th year of funding JMZ Science Outreach lessons in underserved schools. In 1999, the Friends made a commitment to support science lessons in East Palo Alto schools and since then, we have expanded into schools across East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park, and Redwood City. JMZ Science Outreach lessons are fun, educational, and valued by teachers, parents, caretakers, and children. We are grateful to our donor community for enabling this program.

During our first annual Spring Breakfast, we reflected on the impact of JMZ Science Outreach in underserved schools. Our panelists, Dr. Erin Gibson, Kendra Sobomehin, and Arad Kedar, shared their expertise and experiences, reiterating the importance of early access to STEM education. Inspired by the impact of these lessons, our community donated over \$90,000 to help expand the program to additional schools.

This year, we launched the Friends' Animal Encounters Program. Led by Friends' Ambassador Lee Harper, this program introduces zoo animals to visitors, providing unique experiences, like watching the raccoons forage for breakfast, that ignite curiosity and richer appreciation of wildlife. Through these encounters, we aim to inspire connections between children and the natural world.

This year also marked the opening of the *California Dinosaur Garden*, an outdoor exhibit designed to immerse visitors into the Cretaceous era, over 66 million years ago. This living diorama showcases life-size dinosaur sculptures amid native California plants, exploring topics like fossilization, evolution, and extinction. This exhibit is a captivating educational resource for visitors of all ages, fostering a deeper understanding of prehistoric life in California.

We continue to prioritize access and inclusion initiatives, so that people of all abilities can experience the magic of the JMZ. You can read more about the details of these programs, events, and collaborations on page five.

Thank you for being a valued member of our community. Your donations allow us to continuously support the JMZ's mission to engage a child's curiosity in science and nature, as it has for over 90 years.

Lauren Angelo, President

Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo



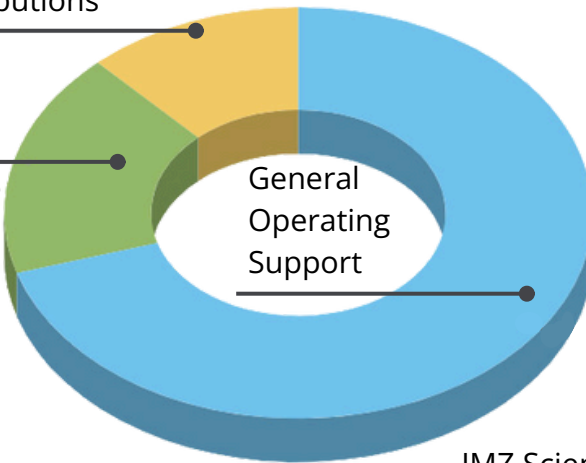


Photo Credit:
Marco Zecchin

Other Restricted
Contributions

JMZ Science
Programs
Support

General
Operating
Support



FUNDRAISING REVENUE

General Operating Support	\$381,879
JMZ Science Programs Support	\$96,755
Other Restricted Contributions	\$65,000

Total Fundraising Revenue **\$543,634**

EXPENSES

Programs

JMZ Science Outreach Expenses	\$141,054
JMZ Support Expenses	\$17,229

Exhibits

California Dinosaur Garden (fundraised for in FY22)	\$208,446
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General Operating	\$292,988
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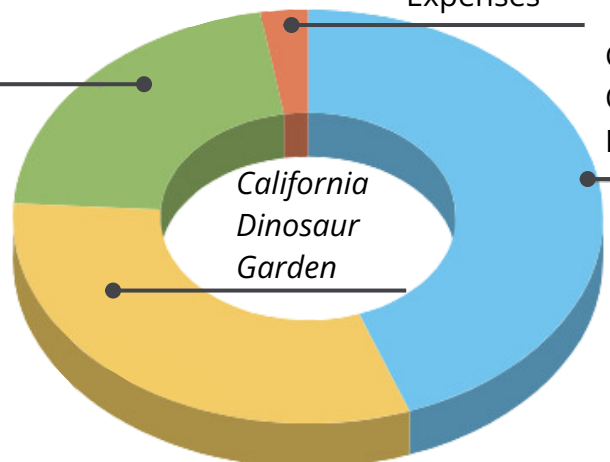
Total Expenses **\$659,717**

JMZ Science
Outreach
Expenses

JMZ Support
Expenses

General
Operating
Expenses

California
Dinosaur
Garden



2024 TALL TREE AWARDS: OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT

The Friends received the Tall Tree Award for Outstanding Nonprofit from the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and Palo Alto Weekly for our substantial contribution to Palo Alto and exceptional community leadership. Thanks to our supporters for helping us make a lasting impact!

FRIENDS' ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS PROGRAM

Through this new program, Friends Ambassadors take JMZ visitors on a journey of discovery through the zoo. Friends Ambassador, Lee Harper, along with other ambassadors, enhance the interpretative experience with animals, ranging from walking through the zoo with Edward the Tortoise to squatting down to eye level to observe the meerkats. Each day offers a new and surprising encounter.

HALLOWEEN AT THE JMZ

Under cobwebs and alongside critters, the Friends hosted our second *Halloween at the JMZ* in the new museum and zoo. Featuring entertainment, tricks and treats, and interactive activities, *Halloween at the JMZ* is fun for the whole family. Proceeds from this event go to the Friends' Annual Giving Fund, which includes support for programs that expand access to science education in the community.

FRIENDS' SPRING BREAKFAST

The Friends hosted our first annual Spring Breakfast this May, celebrating 25 years of bringing the JMZ's Science Outreach lessons to underserved schools in East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park, and Redwood City. Thank you to our donors for supporting the program's expansion into additional schools!

CALIFORNIA DINOSAUR GARDEN

Last October, we celebrated the opening of the new *California Dinosaur Garden* exhibit. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this exhibit captures the imagination and curiosity of children, who are invited to explore Cretaceous California. Life-size dinosaur sculptures allow families to understand the diversity of prehistoric life, and the fossil dig area is well-loved by the paleontologists of the future.



Photo Credit: Tina Keegan



Photo Credit: Artem Nazarov

COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

JMZ SCIENCE OUTREACH IN UNDERSERVED SCHOOLS

This year, we celebrated our 25th year of funding hands-on, engaging STEM lessons for elementary school students, including field trips to the Baylands Nature Preserve. We continue to expand into growing school districts where demand is high, including underserved Redwood City schools.

434

in-class programs in East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park, and Redwood City

9

schools received lessons, completely funded by Friends' donors

3,000+

students served



SCIENCE WITH A TWIST

The Friends funds *Science with a Twist*, an after-school program that engages children's curiosity in a fun and friendly environment at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. This year, we expanded from one site to a total of five across East Palo Alto and Redwood City. Thank you to Zoom Cares for supporting this program.



113

Science with a Twist lessons delivered

5

BGCP locations served

150+

1st and 2nd grade students reached



SUPER FAMILY SUNDAYS

Since 2010, the Friends has funded free events for families with children with disabilities, giving exclusive access to the JMZ in a calm and welcoming environment. The Super Family Sunday team builds relationships with families, cultivating a community for all to enjoy the JMZ.

AFFINITY EVENTS

The Friends also hosts events for nonprofits that build community for underserved families. This year, we collaborated with CoolineKids, Friendship Circle, the Palo Alto Community Advisory Committee and PAUSD, LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thanks to a generous grant from Acton Family Giving, the Friends is funding the JMZ's Community Engagement Specialist position, as well as an evaluation with museum consultants, Scansion, to determine the needs of underserved families in our community. With this knowledge, we look forward to building programs that resonate with the needs of all families.

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

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Photo Credit:
Kat Burton



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