



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund
February 2019



A Treasure in Minnesota's Backyard

**Most visited
cultural
attraction –
1.8 million
annual visitors
20% Greater
Minnesota**



COMO

Inclusivity & Access for All

New Programming

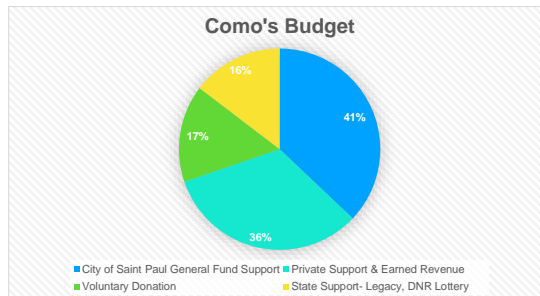
- Sensory Friendly Events
- Senior Strolls
- ASL Days



COMO

Sustainable Business Model

Admission Free
Voluntary Donations – Over \$1.4 Million
Cost to operate - \$4.49 per visitor



Economic Engine

- \$162.7 Million in economic impact to the State of Minnesota
- Generates 2,093 jobs



Como Inspires Learning

425,000 students touched
through programs and
field trips



Private/public partnership

- Inspires community generosity to advance Como Park Zoo and Conservatory as a destination where people from all walks of life can gather, learn, and enjoy the natural world



Private/Public Partnership

- \$41 Million in private support in past decade through Como Friends



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Steward of past legacy funding

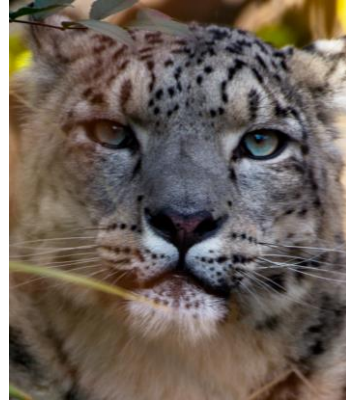
- STEM Focused Education Programs – Como's Residency Program
- EdZooCation Programs
- Music Series
- Public Engagement Programs
- Habitat & Garden Experiences
- Special Exhibits



COMO

Funding = Maximized impact

- HF934 \$1,500,000 per FY20/FY21
- Increased Programming Capacity
- Statewide Impact



Como's Residency Program

- 700 Student Participants
- 28 Weeks
 - 141 Applications from 41 different school districts



Natural Encounter EdZooCation Programs

- Como in the Community
- Youth Engagement Program
- Nature's Engineers



Music in Nature

- Groovin' in the Garden
- Music Under Glass
- Music Mondays



Public Engagement Programs

Lil' Explorer 's

- Over 3,700 pre-school participants

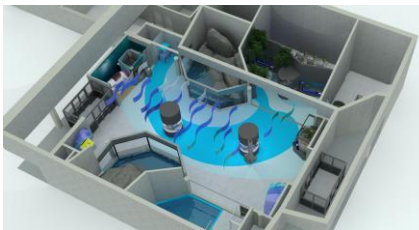
Inclusive offerings

- Sensory Friendly Events
- Senior Strolls
- ASL Days



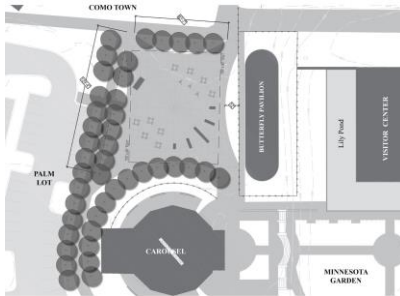
Habitat Renewal

- Improved graphics, added interactive elements and expanded encounters
- Large Cats and Marine Mammal Building



Garden Improvements

- Japanese Garden Path
- Cleveland Court



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Special Exhibits

- Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea



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Special Exhibits

- Blooming Butterflies 2018
- Pollinators: All the Buzz 2019



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THANK YOU

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ComoZooConservatory



@ComoZoo



Como Park Zoo & Conservatory



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