



**ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND
REQUEST FOR FY 22– FY 23 BIENNIUM
\$4,000,000**

The Minnesota Zoo is one of the state’s premier cultural and educational institutions. The Zoo is in a unique position to strengthen Minnesotans’ awareness and understanding of our State’s cultural commitment to wildlife, science, natural history and conservation.

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND APPROPRIATIONS	
2009	~\$265,000 for FY 10 - FY 11
2011	\$3,000,000 for FY 12 - FY 13
2013	\$3,500,000 for FY 14 - FY 15
2015	\$3,500,000 for FY 16 - FY 17
2017	\$3,500,000 for FY 18 - FY 19
2019	\$3,500,000 for FY 20 - FY 21
2021 Request	\$4,000,000 for FY 22 - FY 23

The Minnesota Zoo requests \$4,000,000 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for the FY 22 – FY 23 biennium to be spent in three program categories:

- **Minnesota’s Natural and Cultural Heritage**
- **Expand Access**
- **Engage New Audiences**

Minnesota’s Natural and Cultural Heritage

The Minnesota Zoo is the state’s largest environmental learning center, and we constantly seek to enhance the guests experience and connect more people with nature to save Minnesota’s wildlife.



In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Minnesota and others, the Minnesota Zoo plays a significant role to address conservation of nongame Minnesota species like bison, native prairie butterflies, freshwater mussels and turtles.

Through encounters with our animal “ambassadors” and the professional staff who care for them, Minnesotans learn how animals behave in their natural habitats, and about the importance of conserving habitats for animals in Minnesota and beyond.



The Wells Fargo Family Farm provides an opportunity—at the Zoo—for guests to connect with our state’s farming heritage during an extended season, including the popular Farm Babies event.



Expand Access

The Minnesota Zoo’s ZooUnlimited initiative strives to ensure that everyone – people of all cultures, communities, abilities, and backgrounds – has an equal chance to connect with the natural world.

- *Zoo Maps*: The Zoo offers maps in eleven different languages including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hmong, Japanese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- *MNZOO4ALL*: The Zoo offers a specialized application for all guests, including those with autism or disabilities, that allows guests to preview our spaces and experiences with social guides, customizable visual schedule and sensory friendly map.

Engage New Audiences

The Minnesota Zoo is proud to create programs, exhibits and experiences that highlight our mission, support a smart diversified business model, and prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion.



The Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular boasts 5,000 pumpkins hand-carved by renowned pumpkin artists, taking guests on a magical journey celebrating history and culture from around the world.

In 2020, the Minnesota Zoo launched Nature Illuminated, a winter event celebrating endangered species, conservation, and community. The inaugural event included special access evenings for families with special needs.



FY 22-23 Request

Continued support for existing activities and an increase of \$250,000 per year to advance diversity and inclusion efforts at the Minnesota Zoo, such as:

- Cultivating relationships with communities across the state, with the goal of engaging diverse communities in future program development and Zoo planning.
- Reviewing and revising policies, procedures, practices, and programming with an equity lens.
- Increased training, recruitment and retention efforts to ensure the Minnesota Zoo is an inclusive workplace.