

CAMPAIGN  
PROGRESS  
UPDATE

*More Home  
to Roam*



[MOREHOMETOROAM.ORG](http://MOREHOMETOROAM.ORG)





This is as challenging a time as most can remember. But sticking together, even electronically, can be heartening. Just as spring will turn into summer, so will the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden be ready to welcome members and guests back as soon as it is possible. In the meantime, please allow us to share some updates on our *More Home to Roam* efforts. As you know, *More Home to Roam* will not only enrich the lives of the Zoo's animals – and Zoo guests – it symbolizes another giant leap in the Zoo's efforts to conserve Earth's biodiversity and create a world where both people and wildlife can thrive. We are all in this together and we will, once again, thrive!

THANK YOU for making this transformation possible.



# ENTRY VILLAGE UPDATES

An additional Zoo entry, featuring ten new ticket windows and additional queuing space, opened in 2019 and has dramatically streamlined entry into the Zoo. New amenities such as more family-style restrooms, more storage space for strollers and wheelchairs, as well as a calming room for guests with developmental disabilities, are also improving visitors' experience. The new visitor entrance off Erkenbrecher Avenue—made possible through the Heekin Family—is beautiful as it winds its way past our elephant habitat and through a pollinator garden brimming with butterflies and bees during peak season.

The Zoo is the #1 attraction in Hamilton County, creating a significant economic and cultural benefit to the families in the region. Attendance growth is directly connected to the Zoo's ability to provide access into the Zoo. In the future, an 1,800-car parking garage, featuring a new pedestrian bridge over the street and into the Zoo will offer safe and efficient access and alleviate parking and traffic issues for neighboring businesses and residents.



## THE CALMING ROOM

In partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has been working to become the most welcoming, accessible, and inclusive Zoo for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. This initiative is highlighted by the opening of the Zoo's new Calming Room. This space has been designed for visitors with sensory sensitivities and/or developmental disabilities, who may need a quiet space to regulate their bodies during a Zoo visit. The Calming Room features items such as: a rocking chair, dimming lights, crash pad, projector with calming images, bubble wall, stereo, vibrating pillow, and weighted lap pad.

# ROO VALLEY PROGRESS

Scheduled to open later this summer and when the Zoo reopens, Roo Valley will feature a 15,000- square-foot Kangaroo Walkabout underwritten by the James J. and Joan A. Gardner Family Foundation. Guests will roam among the 'roos as they hop about, play and graze.

Our Zoo's Little Blue Penguins – another native Australian species – will have an innovatively-designed new home as well, made possible through the generosity of The Craig Young Family Foundation. The habitat will include more rocky surfaces and incorporate technology to optimize swimming time in the G. Richard Thomas & Jane S. Thomas Penguin Pool. These new features are expected to increase penguin foot health. Thanks to the Helen G., Henry F. and Louise T. Dornette Foundation, Fifth Third Bank Trustee, included in Roo Valley will be a new feature: Kanga' Klimb Aerial Adventure Course. This two-level, ADA-accessible ropes course will incorporate 50 activities that will no doubt be a popular attraction for our visitors, offering fun and exercise for everyone, as well as providing a new revenue stream for the Cincinnati Zoo.



# HOPS CRAFT BEER GARDEN

In October of 2019, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden opened the first component of Roo Valley to the public. **Hops** by Paycor is the Zoo's new craft beer garden and offers a birds-eye view of the exciting habitat "down under." Local brews featured at **Hops** include selections from Fifty West, HighGrain, MadTree, Braxton and Three Points. Given our title as the "Greenest Zoo in America," **Hops** was built with sustainability in mind. Food operation is disposable-free, with real silverware and plates versus single-use plastics. Additionally, the Zoo is growing our own herbs and will continue to source produce, cheese and meats locally. Be sure to stop by for a bite and a brew when the Zoo reopens!



# AFRICAN PENGUIN POINT

African penguins will get a home makeover, too. Endangered in the wild, their populations have dropped by 50% in the past 30 years. As perhaps one of the most endangered species currently living at the Zoo, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is committed to doing all we can to ensure this beautiful species does not disappear. The new African Penguin habitat will be three times the size of the current space with a dramatically larger indoor bedroom area to encourage breeding, expand nesting sites and ultimately result in a thriving colony of 30+ birds, up from the 11 we have today. This habitat is made possible through the generosity of Pam Rossman, in honor of her parents Charles and Claire Phillips and Norah and Kerry Clark.



# MAI THAI'S MARKET

There are many components involved with a transformational initiative of this size. With that in mind, some things now are laying the groundwork for later phases of More Home to Roam. One such project is the renovation of the previous 4D theater. Slated to open this summer when the Zoo reopens, this new space will reopen as **Mai Thai's Market**. Adjacent to The Grove, **Mai Thai's Market** will be a 3,500-square-foot space with seated dining, retail and a Cup and Cone area featuring our partners, Graeter's and Coffee Emporium. Adjacent to the Market will be a new Nursing Nest for mothers and thanks to the support of G. Richard Thomas & Jane S. Thomas, there will also be an additional Calming Room.



## DONORS THAT DREAM BIG AND DELIVER BIGGER

The *More Home to Roam* capital campaign was launched with a goal of raising \$150 million to dramatically transform our habitats and expand community and conservation efforts, here and around the world. Cincinnati humanitarians Harry and Linda Fath believed in our vision enough to pledge a record \$50 million challenge gift, putting us well on our way to realizing the most expansive changes in the Zoo's history. Thanks to 75,000+ donors like you, **an additional \$38.8 million dollars have been raised since the campaign launched in June 2018!**

Over 100 years ago, leaders like Andrew Erkenbrecher, Mary Emery and Anna Sinton Taft generously contributed to secure the Zoo's future. Today, joining the ranks of Harry and Linda Fath, you too are ensuring the Zoo's legacy for generations to come through your support of our capital campaign.

## A PATH PAVED WITH LOVE

Hundreds of community members and Zoo friends showed their support by paving the way to Roo Valley. The pathway leading into the Australian-themed Roo Valley will be lined with engraved pavers purchased by Zoo friends in the Fall of 2019 – greeting visitors with messages of honor, tribute, and pride. This community effort netted more than \$200,000 in support of *More Home to Roam*, highlighting the philanthropic nature of our community and friends from all over.



## WHAT'S UP NEXT

With Phases I and II of the *More Home to Roam Campaign* nearing completion (Phase I – New Visitor Entry; Phase 2 – Roo Valley), the Zoo is setting its sights on the future. Phase III of the campaign - Zoo Parking, is well underway. Site preparation has begun as we work with our Uptown neighbors to create expanded capacity for visitor safety and parking. [Click here to read more.](#)

