

FRIENDS OF THE
PALO ALTO
Junior
MUSEUM & ZOO

Annual Report

July 2024 - June 2025

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All photos by Artem Nazarov



TO OUR SUPPORTERS,

We are filled with gratitude for the generous community that continues to champion the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ) and its mission to engage a child's curiosity in science and nature.

As my eldest leaves for college, I'm especially thankful for how the JMZ shaped my four children's lives—from hours at the ball machine and in the treehouse to weeks at its magical science camps. This summer, my youngest came home from Jurassic Camp brimming with facts about dinosaurs and volcanoes, and in previous summers, my eldest daughter returned as a JMZ volunteer—helping lead the very camps she once attended. Thanks to your support, the JMZ is a place where children feel seen, inspired, and truly at home.

Thanks to your generosity, this year the Friends funded *Science with a Twist* at five Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP) sites—an incredible expansion since launching at the East Palo Alto Clubhouse in 2022. These after-school, hands-on lessons make science fun. At our Spring Breakfast this year, Jenny Obiaya, CEO of BGCP, shared just how popular these lessons are among students. *Science with a Twist* complements the JMZ Science Outreach Program in underserved schools, which we continue to fund for more than 3,000 students annually. The Friends also started offering field trips to the JMZ and demand continues to rise.

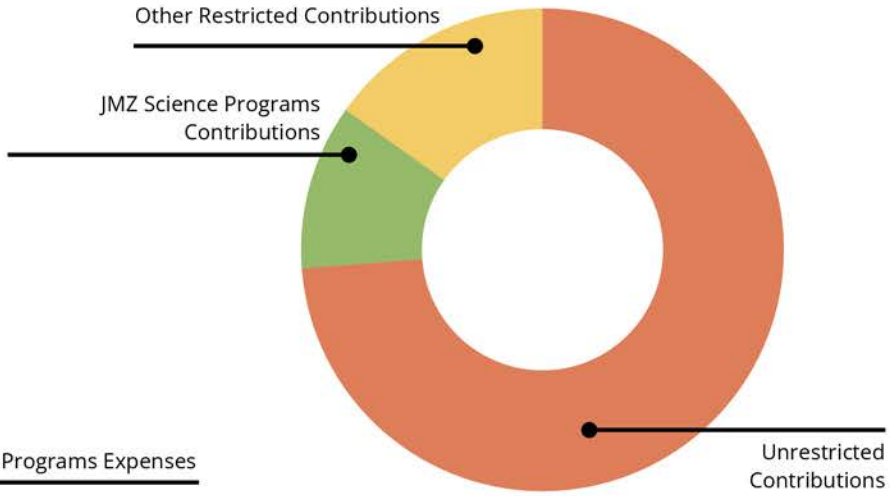
The Friends supports the JMZ by bringing new interactive exhibits to life, such as the Rainbow Tunnel, opening early 2026. This year has been one of growth in the zoo as well, including the hatch of a new flamingo chick and arrival of lemurs. We were proud to support the JMZ through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Accreditation process—a rigorous and prestigious benchmark that affirms the JMZ's excellence in animal care, education, and conservation. Achieving accreditation is a major accomplishment and an important step for the future of the JMZ.

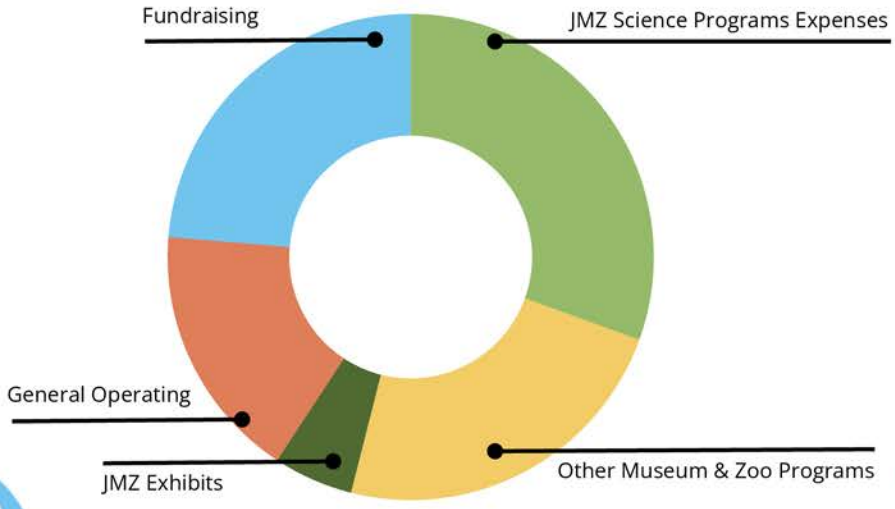
Thank you for being a valued part of our community. Your generosity ensures the JMZ continues to ignite a passion for science and nature—a 90-year legacy we're honored to support.

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

FUNDRAISING REVENUE

Unrestricted Contributions	$401,430
JMZ Science Programs Contributions	$ 60,252
Other Restricted Contributions	$ 82,451
Total Fundraising Revenue	**$544,134**

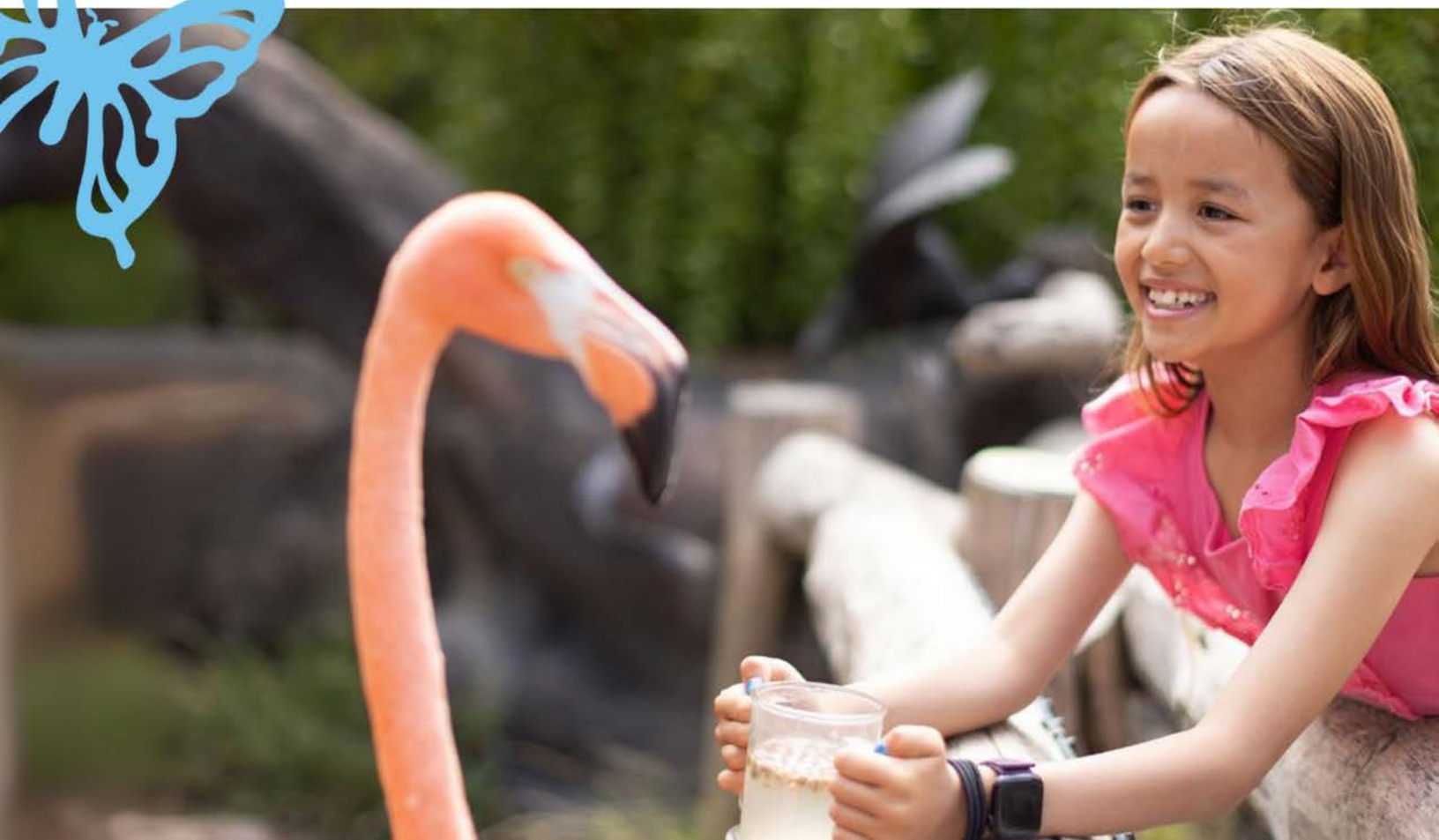




EXPENSES

Programs	
JMZ Science Programs	$180,911
Other Museum & Zoo Programs*	$138,784
JMZ Exhibits*	$ 31,429
General Operating	$101,085
Fundraising	$140,308
Total Expenses	**$592,517**

*Includes projects funded in previous fiscal years





OUR WORK

JMZ SCIENCE OUTREACH IN UNDERSERVED SCHOOLS

JMZ Science Outreach lessons are engaging experiences, designed to ignite a passion for STEM subjects. The Friends continues to support lessons in underserved schools, as we have since 1999. Today, the Friends funds hands-on lessons across 9 schools in East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park, and Redwood City.

SCIENCE WITH A TWIST

The Friends launched *Science with a Twist,* fun and memorable afterschool lessons, at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's (BGCP) East Palo Alto Clubhouse. To meet growing demand, the program has expanded to locations in eastern Menlo Park and Redwood City, now reaching five BGCP sites.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Friends funds scholarships to the JMZ's popular summer camps, including post-camp care. The Friends increased the number of awarded scholarships by 80% from last summer for a total of 45 slots.

Such an all around great experience with the instructors and staff who care about the well-being of each child. My kid learned so much and was excited to share about each day.

—Camp Parent

469
JMZ Science Outreach lessons delivered in underserved schools

118
***Science with a Twist* lessons delivered at BGCP**

3,250+
students directly benefit from JMZ Science Outreach lessons and *Science with a Twist*

SUPER FAMILY SUNDAY

Led by a team of amazing ambassadors for 15 years, these events are admission-free evenings in which families with children with disabilities can enjoy the JMZ in a peaceful setting with fewer crowds. We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Palo Alto for supporting all 10 Super Family Sunday events in 2025.

AFFINITY EVENTS

Inspired by Super Family Sunday, the Friends invites other mission-aligned nonprofits to afterhours events at the JMZ. Collaborators include CoolineKids, Woodland Park Communities, Peninsula Bridge, Advocates for Accessible Recreation (AFAR), and Bay Area Friendship Circle. We welcomed over 300 guests to a total of 5 events last year.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, FUELING IMPACT

SPRING BREAKFAST

This past spring, the Friends raised nearly $90,000 in support of JMZ science programs. We are grateful to our panelists, Dr. Hyowon Gweon, Dr. Nicole Ardoin, and Jenny Obiaya, for sharing their expertise on how early exposure to STEM lays a foundation for success.

FRIENDS & FAMILY NIGHT

The Friends hosted Friends & Family Night, inviting families in the community to enjoy an after-hours event at the JMZ. Special animal encounters, pizza, and ice cream delighted visitors, who learned more about the Friends and our work.

HALLOWEEN AT THE JMZ FUNDRAISER

In October 2024, nearly 500 guests joined the Friends in costume for a lively evening of music, crafts, and treats. Thanks to our sponsors and volunteers, this event not only brought families together but also benefitted the Friends' Annual Giving Fund.



LOOKING AHEAD

RAINBOW TUNNEL

The Rainbow Tunnel, a new immersive experience that explores the light spectrum through color and reflection, opens in early 2026. Serving as both an engaging educational space and a piece of public art, it will be free for all to enjoy, even outside of the JMZ's open hours.

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS ACCREDITATION

Aligned with the goals of the rebuild of the JMZ, the reimagined zoo was designed to enhance animal care and enrichment—laying the foundation for a successful Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Accreditation application. The Friends supported the JMZ throughout this process by providing resources to help meet AZA's high standards. This achievement marks a milestone in the JMZ's ongoing commitment to animal care, conservation, and education.

Accreditation [affirms] our commitment to the highest standards of animal wellbeing, conservation, and education. [It] strengthens our promise to the community to provide a place where children can learn and be inspired by science and nature.

—Sean Ramsdell, JMZ Zoo Director

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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