# A New Home for Penguins

# A New Front Door to the Zoo

A new, state-of-the-art exhibit draws visitors directly into our mission, educating them about the plight of these enchanting, flightless birds and the actions people can take to save them.

They are the zoo's natural comedians, a delightful mustsee animal for visitors of all ages. Yet the penguins' current exhibit — originally built for seals and sea lions 60 years ago — is well below today's standards for animal care and conservation education.

You can help build a stunning new, naturalistic home specifically designed for penguins, inspiring our guests to take conservation actions on their behalf! With a glasswall, underwater viewing is a cornerstone of this signature exhibit, allowing guests to see these aquatic acrobats fly through water at up to 20 m.p.h. Other viewing points immerse our guests in close encounters with 20 or more breeding pairs of the highly social bird. Seeing them preen and squabble over territory, breed, nest, and raise their chicks, guests will feel they are visiting penguins in their

natural home. The exhibit also enhances the penguins' lives with a state-of-the-art biofiltration and rain water harvesting system that dramatically minimizes water loss. Because Humboldt penguins reside in coastal habitats, the new penguin exhibit will tell a compelling conservation story that resonates with the marine-savvy, Pacific Northwest community.

And, what better way to meet the penguins than through a new entry to the zoo! Revolutionizing how we welcome and serve our guests, this new "front door" will provide dramatically improved visitor services, efficiently and graciously leading our guests to their first animal experience — our Humboldt penguins.

Above right: Humboldt penguins and humans share many behaviors — searching for food, mating and raising young. Compelling stories about these birds' plight and nose-to-beak experiences create a sense of awe and empathy among guests.







## **AT A GLANCE**

#### HABITAT

Humboldt penguins live along the rugged coastline of Peru and Chile

#### **NUMBER**

Only 10,000-12,000 remain in the wild

#### **OPPORTUNITY**

A new state-of-the art, environmentally friendly home for breeding endangered Humboldt penguins helps visitors learn how to make choices that keep marine environments healthy while immersing visitors in engaging, nose-to-beak experiences and up-close interactions with these delightful creatures. The zoo's new West Entrance features dramatically improved visitor amenities, modern conveniences and green design choices to welcome and inspire our 1.2 million visitors annually.

PRIVATE FUNDING GOAL \$12 million

# Saving this Essential Species

Humboldt penguin populations are endangered. These flightless birds suffer from overfished waters, get tangled in fishing nets, and are highly vulnerable to climate variations. Conservation actions must be taken now to ensure their survival.

That's why Woodland Park Zoo supports colony/nest protection and wild penguin population surveys in the field. Our new exhibit will help visitors learn about sustainable fishing practices, the effects of climate change, and conservation actions they can take to help keep marine habitats healthy for penguins and all wildlife.

Among other themes, zookeepers and interpretive programs will help visitors learn how more frequent El Niños and the food choices humans make can affect penguins' food supply. For example, anchovies are fished by the tons for human (and pet) consumption. Whereas penguins cannot make a different choice about what they eat, humans can.

# Nose-to-Beak Viewing and Sustainability

The new exhibit will be a stunning showcase that replicates the rugged Pacific coastline of South America, modeled after the Punta San Juan Penguin Conservation Reserve in Peru. With nearly nose-to-beak animal interaction and rich sights, sounds and smells, guests will feel like they're visiting penguins in their natural home.

The exhibit provides the penguins a significantly enriched habitat, including temperature-controlled water, naturalistic nesting burrows, much-needed summertime shade, shoreline beach and rocky tidepools. In addition, state-of-the-art environmental engineering integrates a biofiltration wetland and rain harvest features into the penguins' life support system, dramatically reducing our water use each year.

### A New Front Door to Woodland Park Zoo

The zoo's Long-Range Strategic Plan calls for a new West Entrance leading guests to our signature penguin exhibit. This beautiful front door sets a compelling stage for our guests, transitioning them smoothly from the bustling city to an urban oasis of lush greenery, native plants, and exotic animals.

On arrival, inviting pathways and helpful signage will guide guests to the new, state-of-the-art admittance gate, designed to ensure a hassle-free entrance with ticket wait time no more than five minutes. The welcoming plaza offers guests and their families every amenity needed to begin or end a wonderful zoo journey. Do the kids need

a bathroom...right now? Want to renew your membership? Visitor assistance, equipment rentals, restrooms, coffee bar and café, a zoo-themed retail store, and more all are conveniently within reach.

Benches and tables, play spaces for kids, and outdoor artwork to admire makes guests feel at home gathering or resting here — an extension of the nearby neighborhood park that envelops the entry area. With such vastly improved, family-friendly facilities, the zoo's new West Entrance will welcome its one million annual guests much more smoothly and efficiently. Welcome to the new Woodland Park Zoo!

