

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Ceremonial ribbon cutting opens zoo's new Bamboo Forest Reserve exhibit May 3

WHAT: Woodland Park Zoo cuts the ribbon for the first phase of the new Bamboo Forest Reserve Friday, May 3, followed by an exhibit preview. Press is invited to attend.

The first phase of the Bamboo Forest Reserve is the opening chapter of a dynamic, new exhibit complex at the heart of Woodland Park Zoo. It debuts squealing Asian small-clawed otters, a tropical aviary, a kids' nature play area, and the zoo's new twin sloth bear cubs, all bringing to life the sounds, smells and sights of the Asian tropical forest. A **grand opening celebration takes place Saturday, May 4. For a schedule of activities, visit bit.ly/BFRGrandOpening.**

Designed by Studio Hanson/Roberts, this exhibit project marks the most ambitious zoo project since the award-winning Trail of Vines opened in 1996. During the second phase of this \$19.6 million project, the immersive scene will transform the zoo's 60-year-old, outdated tiger and sloth bear exhibits into a spacious, naturalistic and state-of-the-art home for these endangered species.

With the community's continued support, the zoo will be able to complete fundraising for the second and final phase of the exhibit complex, which will bring new homes for Malayan tigers and sloth bears at the zoo.

WHEN: Friday, May 3, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

WHO: King County Councilmember Larry Phillips; Seattle City Councilmember Jean Godden; Louisa Malatos of the Joshua Green Foundation; Woodland Park Zoo Board Chair Nancy Pellegrino; Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Dr. Deborah Jensen; students from North Seattle Fives Cooperative School; and Woodland Park Zoo Board of Directors, donors, members, visitors, staff and volunteers.

WHERE: Woodland Park Zoo Bamboo Forest Reserve exhibit near the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th St. and N. 56th St. Parking available in the inner north lot; no code is needed.

INFO: Spring/summer zoo admission: May 1-September 30: Adult (13-64) \$18.75; Child (3-12) \$11.75; Free for children 2 and under year round. Active, retired, and veteran U.S. military and their families, seniors and people with disabilities receive a discount and zoo members receive free zoo admission year round. Parking: \$5.25. Parking is limited.

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, award-winning Woodland Park Zoo is famed for pioneering naturalistic exhibits and setting international standards for zoos in animal care, conservation and education programs. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats in Washington state and in 50 countries around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future. For more information, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500 or 548.2599 (TTY).

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