

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | July 20, 2016
Media contact: Gigi Allanic, Alissa Wolken
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoo@zoo.org

Woodland Park Zoo's 40th Annual Jungle Party ***Event raises more than \$1.46 million from generous community support***

SEATTLE—Celebrating the extraordinary animals and wildlife found right here in the Pacific Northwest, Woodland Park Zoo's 40th Annual Jungle Party—themed “Call of the Wild: The Great Northwest”—drew nearly 1,000 civic-minded business and community leaders and raised more than \$1.46 million under the leadership of event chairs Michael Katz and Stephanie Lucero Katz.



Woodland Park Zoo's 40th Annual Jungle Party, held July 15, was presented by The Boeing Company, Brown Bear Car Wash and US Bank to raise funds for exemplary animal care, STEM education programs, and wildlife conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Jungle Party patrons enjoyed bidding on exceptional auction items, exclusive zoo tours, a gourmet outdoor dinner and live entertainment, and an after party with dancing all on zoo grounds.

“Stephanie and I were thrilled to be asked to serve as Jungle Party chairs for 2016,” stated Michael Katz, Puget Sound market president of US Bank. “Being new to this community, we did not realize what that encompassed and just what a stellar event Jungle Party is for this community. Arriving at the zoo on Friday night and seeing all the decorations and tents was a total rush and the experience far exceeded our expectations. And we had the pleasure of experiencing it for the first time along with the zoo's new President and CEO, Alejandro Grajal!”

“We were really impressed by the large number of community leaders representing all generations that attended the event, and by the generosity exhibited by zoo supporters during both the live auction in the tent and the Fund-Our-Future auction,” said Katz. “Woodland Park Zoo is certainly a cherished institution in this community and it isn't hard to see why after attending Jungle Party. We are thrilled that the event is going to result in a healthy total of well over \$1.4 million, surpassing the goal for 2016.”

More than \$575,000 of the funds raised this year will support Jungle Party's Fund-Our-Future campaign themed the “Living Northwest Initiative.” Fund-Our-Future 2016 provides critical funds that enable the zoo to raise the level of excellence in animal care for the zoo's residents of the Northern Trail, open up new opportunities for people of all ages and interests through education and outreach programs, and ensure Woodland Park Zoo will continue to make a difference in the survival of threatened and endangered species in the Northwest.

“This year's Jungle Party was a night to remember thanks to the nearly 1,000 zoo supporters who attended the event and gave generously,” said Alejandro Grajal, president and CEO of Woodland Park Zoo. “It takes the entire zoo and scores of volunteers to make this event one of Seattle's wildest fundraisers. We sincerely appreciate the contributions of long-time donors and families, as well as new friends, who joined us this year in support of our mission of inspiring our community to learn, care and act in support of a sustainable future for wildlife and people.”

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 the Pacific Northwest and 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.

###