

Together We Let Our Hearts Soar!

Woodland Park Zoo and The Museum of Flight are Wild at Heart this Valentine's Day

SEATTLE — Together we let our hearts soar!

This Valentine's Day, The **Museum of Flight** and **Woodland Park Zoo** have joined together to let our hearts soar! This lively partnership is part of the **Wild at Heart** series to celebrate local cultural organizations.

Arts, science and heritage are the heart of Seattle. We are a vibrant and rich community of cultural partners - from artists to actors to animal lovers, museums to musicians, and singers to scientists. We are all Wild at Heart, and we celebrate our unique and collective contributions that bring life to this city. To learn more about Wild at Heart, visit www.zoo.org/together

For our February photo celebration, Woodland Park Zoo's Harry and Cisco paid a special visit to The Museum of Flight. Harry the skunk and Cisco the Harris's hawk are ambassador animals at Woodland Park Zoo who star in the zoo's educational programs, help build empathy for animals and promote ways to take action for wildlife.

The Museum of Flight consists of five buildings covering 23 acres, and there was so much to see that the ambassador animals spent this visit only in the main, Great Gallery.

Cisco, who has been flying in zoo educational programs since 1989, explored the aircraft while Harry the skunk checked out the Lockheed M-21 Blackbird, developed by the company's legendary and aptly-named Skunk Works engineering team.

"Animals have inspired human innovation and creativity, and hopefully the reverse can also be true – that human innovation can inspire care for animals," said Woodland Park Zoo Animal Curator Rachel Salant. "It's fun to see these animals being enriched and exploring a new space. But it's also a reminder about the connection between the world that we've built and the world we're charged with protecting."

"Virtually everything at the Museum ties directly back to humankind's ancient desire to fly like a bird, and it's a connection everyone feels around our fantastic flying machines," said Museum Senior Curator Matthew Burchette. "And when you check their names, it's a zoo! There's a Robin, a Falcon, a Snipe, a Camel, a Pup, a Dove and the list goes on and on. It's entirely natural to bring some living brethren to the Museum. Not to mention that our resident Astronaut loved meeting these new visitors!"

As a special bonus to the photos of Cisco and Harry, check out the picture of Pecos Bill the Trans-Pecos rat snake in the cabin of an early 737 airliner ("Be careful opening the overhead bins, as contents may have slithered." A snake on a plane!). You can also visit The Museum of Flight and Woodland Park Zoo social media for behind-the-scenes videos and interviews with the Museum's Senior Curator Matthew Burchette for fun facts about the links between aviation and animals.

The Museum of Flight and Woodland Park Zoo are both members of Inspire Washington, a statewide coalition that champions advocacy and resource development for Washington's cultural sector, and works to strengthen communities by increasing access to science,

heritage and arts. Learn more about Inspire Washington at www.inspirewashington.org . [Both organizations are also members of the Puget Sound Attractions Council.](#)

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