EDUCATION & ACCESS
Sparking a Lifelong Love of Animals

connecting PEOPLE & WILDLIFE
“In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.”

This statement – made by forestry engineer Baba Dioum at the 1968 IUCN conference – speaks to a critical role zoos play in society. Outside of formal education, zoos have the unique ability to showcase the wonder of the natural world, motivate us to care about it, and demonstrate our part in preserving it.

Each year, our team of educators and animal ambassadors enriches millions of lives through school field trips, community events, camp activities, outreach programming and more. But the Columbus Zoo wants everyone to have a chance to fall in love with wildlife – which is why we prioritize scholarships, free and discounted admission, and subsidized outreach opportunities for underserved populations to experience the wonders of the natural world.

Whether we’re fueling an existing passion for animals or sparking a new interest, it’s our responsibility to foster this lifelong connection starting with the youngest generation. This connection is what transforms an animal lover into an advocate, and an advocate into a conservationist.

To continue serving the next generation for generations, we will:

» **CREATE** opportunities and break down societal barriers for underserved children and their families to experience the Zoo through scholarships, classroom outreach, and an annual Zoo Day event

» **EXPAND** the Conservation Education campus – making it possible for the Zoo to add new programs, grow existing ones, and ultimately serve more people

» **PARTNER** with hundreds of local nonprofits, schools and civic organizations to meet community need

» **DELIVER** innovative programming that helps local educators create a strong science curriculum while also teaching empathy, compassion and social responsibility