

## Overview of the Auxiliary Board

### **BACKGROUND**

The Auxiliary Board was established in 1984 to provide supportive funds and services to the Lincoln Park Zoological Society and to aid the Society in efforts to improve Lincoln Park Zoo.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Auxiliary Board has approximately 100 members. Those invited to join this group are between the ages of 25 and 40 and are primarily young professionals from downtown neighborhoods near the zoo and the suburbs. The Auxiliary Board has evolved into one of Chicago's most popular fundraising groups, heralded as the "Tiffany of Auxiliary Boards" and highlighted in *Town and Country Magazine*: "Young society is currently lured by boards...at the top, Lincoln Park Zoo's Auxiliary Board."

### **EVENT COMMITTEES**

Zoo-ologie - This upscale cocktail party is the Auxiliary Board's primary fundraising event. This one-of-a-kind gala is held in the heart of the zoo and celebrates the natural beauty and urban spirit of Lincoln Park Zoo. Zoo-ologie attracts more than 600 young professionals and occurs in early summer. Guests enjoy exclusive access to the spectacular zoo grounds, while enjoying cocktails, gourmet hors d'oeuvre, a raffle and a silent auction, and dancing under the stars. Over the course of the evening, Zoo-ologie guests help raise over \$100,000 for Lincoln Park Zoo.

Spooky Zoo Spectacular - Spooky Zoo is the Auxiliary Board's largest community service event and provides 25,000+ children and their parents with a free, safe alternative to Halloween trick-or-treating on zoo grounds. Guests are also invited to learn fun facts about the animals in the Spooky Zoo Education Zone, stimulate their minds while making crafts, collect treats and enjoy entertainment throughout the zoo while dressed in their best or spookiest costume.

Board Events - In the past, this has included benefit openings at art galleries, wine tastings, restaurants, and specialty stores – with some fundraising component, such as a raffle or auction, or a portion of the proceeds donated to the zoo.

### **FUNDRAISING GOAL**

Lincoln Park Zoo is one of only three remaining free zoos in the U.S. and the last free major cultural institution in Chicago, opening its gates annually to more than three million visitors. All funds raised by the Auxiliary Board support the zoo's operating costs, which helps Lincoln Park Zoo feed its animals, maintain its animal exhibits, continue its education initiatives and keep the zoo free 365 days a year!

# The Auxiliary Board of Lincoln Park Zoo

## Membership Categories-at-a-Glance

<b>Member Status</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>Non-Resident</b>
Definition	An Active member is defined as a Board member that fulfills the requirements of Active membership.	Active members are recommended for Sustaining Member status by the Membership Committee. They must have been a Board member for at least 5 years and have served the Board in an exemplary manner.	A Board member who has moved out of town and still wishes to receive Board communications and mailings may submit a request to the Membership Committee for Non-Resident status.
Terms of Service	Consecutive 1-year terms, renewed annually if membership requirements met.	5-year terms, renewed annually if membership requirements met.	Consecutive 1-year terms, renewed annually if membership requirements met.
Dues	\$250	\$250	No dues payment required
Annual Fund Contribution	Required to contribute to the Annual Fund.	Required to contribute to the Annual Fund.	Required to contribute to the Annual Fund at the \$150 level or higher.
General Meeting Attendance	Must attend at least <u>two</u> of four General meetings.	Attendance at General meetings is encouraged and welcomed, but not mandatory.	No attendance is expected.
Committee Involvement	Must be active on a minimum of one committee.	Attendance at committee meetings is encouraged and welcomed, but not mandatory.	No attendance is expected.
Mailing Lists	Must provide mailing list.	Encouraged to provide a mailing list.	Encouraged to provide a mailing list.
Additional Fundraising Support	Purchase event tickets and participate in raffles, silent auctions, etc.	Encouraged to purchase event tickets and participate in raffles.	Encouraged to purchase event tickets and participate in raffles.

# **The Auxiliary Board of Lincoln Park Zoo**

## **Active Member Requirements**

*While we understand that Auxiliary Board members have many commitments, it is expected that an active Auxiliary Board member of Lincoln Park Zoo participate in the Auxiliary Board meetings and events in the following manner:*

- Prompt payment of annual Auxiliary Board dues of \$250. Dues cover the cost of meeting materials, refreshments, and other supplies.
  - Failure to pay will result in the possibility of not being considered for a future Executive Committee positions or dismissal from the Board.
  - Exceptions to the deadline may be made for matching gift deadlines and must be approved by the Treasurer and the Membership Co-Chairs prior to the deadline.
- Financial support at some level in the Auxiliary Board Annual Fund effort to support the zoo's operating budget. The goal is for the Board to have 100% participation in the Annual Fund, no matter what the size of the donation. Donors at the \$365 and above level (Curators' Circle) receive additional benefits including having their name listed in the zoo's Annual Report and invitations to additional special zoo events.
- Attendance at *all* quarterly General meetings is strongly encouraged. However, attendance at a minimum of two meetings is required.
- Required support of each Auxiliary Board sponsored event (Zoo-ologie, Spooky Zoo Spectacular, Board Events, etc.). This would include any or all of the following:
  - a. Secure monetary or in-kind donations
  - b. Purchase at least one ticket to the event and attend the event
  - c. Purchase at least one ticket to the event if unable to attend
  - d. Purchase raffle tickets for the event if unable to attend
  - e. Volunteer at the event
- Submit and update mailing lists, and recruit friends and co-workers for the various Auxiliary Board events. Please note that Auxiliary Board members are not to use the Board or its mailing lists for personal or professional use.

### ***Benefits of Auxiliary Board Membership***

Auxiliary Board members receive:

- Complimentary membership to the zoo. Benefits include:
  - Unlimited free parking
  - Discounts in the zoo shops and cafes
  - Free or discounted admission to more than 100 zoos and aquariums nationwide
- Name recognition on Board invitations (when appropriate)
- Recognized in the zoo's Annual Report
- Invitation to the Annual Meeting
- Opportunities to enjoy special privileges such as behind-the-scenes tours and previews of new exhibits