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EDITOR'S NOTE: Photos available for download at lpzoo.org/penguinpress.

Lincoln Park Zoo Announces Opening Date for New African Penguin Exhibit

Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove Public Opening Set for Oct. 6

Chicago (July 21, 2016) — African penguins, jackass penguins, or black-footed penguins – regardless of what you call them, penguins are returning to Lincoln Park Zoo as part of the new *Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove* set to open to the public Oct. 6.

Nine male and four female African penguins will inhabit the 3,350-square-foot outdoor exhibit space featuring a 20,500-gallon pool and naturalistic South African landscape. The state-of-the-art exhibit will also showcase designated nesting areas. Camouflaged within the exhibit rockwork and featuring sand and pebbles, these cozy nest areas will enable the penguins to burrow and nest, eliciting natural, species-specific behaviors.



“With the *Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove* comes an incredible opportunity and responsibility to connect visitors with nature and demonstrate the effects of human-wildlife interactions,” said Senior Vice President Megan Ross, Ph.D. “This unique, endangered species shares the South African beaches with humans and cannot survive without our help.”

African penguins are identified by the pink coloration around their eyes and black breast-band and belly spots. These penguins are native to South Africa and are endangered, with populations decimated due to human impacts such as unsustainable fishing practices, egg-collecting and oil spills. African penguins are one of 17 penguin species worldwide.

“African penguins are such an engaging, mesmerizing – and vocal – species,” said General Curator Dave Bernier. “I’m thrilled to have penguins back at Lincoln Park Zoo and share that passion with our 3.6 million annual visitors.”

Beginning Oct. 6, zoo visitors will have the chance to enter the 1,350-square-foot immersive sheltered viewing area featuring floor-to-ceiling viewing windows giving guests a chance to get nose-to-beak with these captivating animals. On the public side, guests can also experience the penguins’ native habitat with squishy floors imitating damp sand and tactile rockwork complete with artificial mussels and barnacles for guests to explore.



The *Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove* is part of Lincoln Park Zoo's \$125 million capital campaign, *The Pride of Chicago*, which provides funding for new initiatives and structures throughout the zoo.

For more information about Lincoln Park Zoo or the *Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove*, please visit lpzoo.org.

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ABOUT LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Lincoln Park Zoo, a historic Chicago landmark founded in 1868, is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience. A leader in conservation science both globally and locally, the zoo exemplifies the highest quality animal care and educational outreach. The not-for-profit zoo, managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, is a member-supported organization and one of the nation's only free, privately managed zoos. For more information, call 312 -742-2000 or visit lpzoo.org.