



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New bronze penguin sculptures call Columbian Park Zoo home

LAFAYETTE, IN – September 14, 2022 – Columbian Park Zoo has installed a new bronze art display near its Penguin Cove exhibit. The new penguin sculptures were commissioned thanks to a generous gift to the Lafayette Parks Foundation by the Jana & Jeff Kessler Family.

"Our family has enjoyed Columbian Park and its Zoo for generations," said Jana Kessler. "We are blessed to give back and to assist in the Zoo's growth so that current and future generations can also enjoy and make memories."

Created by local sculptor, Rita Hadley, the new art installation features four bronze penguin sculptures and is a depiction of the penguin lifecycle. Hadley has completed several other commissioned works of art for Columbian Park Zoo, including most recently, a bronze medallion featuring armadillos, which was installed in early 2021.

In conjunction with the four statues funded by the Jana & Jeff Kessler Family, Rita and her husband, Rick Hadley, plan to donate three additional penguin statues for a total of seven bronze characters that will complement the area surrounding the Penguin Cove exhibit.

The Columbian Park Zoo team was honored to receive this gift from the Kessler family. "It's really special to have such a unique piece of art commissioned for our Zoo," said Zoo Director Neil Dale. "These penguin sculptures will make visits to Penguin Cove even more memorable and special for zoo guests for years to come."



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For more information about the Columbian Park Zoo, please call 765-807-1540 or visit columbianparkzoo.org. Stay up to date on Zoo happenings at www.facebook.com/cpzoo and www.twitter.com/ColumbianPrkZoo!"

About Columbian Park Zoo

Founded in 1908, Columbian Park Zoo is the second oldest zoo in Indiana. It is approximately 6 acres in size and is located in historic Columbian Park. The Zoo features several “immersion” exhibits and the animal collection consists of nearly 200 animals representing approximately 90 species.

Lafayette Parks Foundation

Since its formation in 1994, the Lafayette Parks Foundation serves to support the Lafayette Park Department through fund development, assistance with capital projects, special events and programs. The mission of the Foundation is to solicit and encourage donations to assist Lafayette Park capital improvements and programs. Most recent projects include the new Penguin Exhibit at the Columbian Park Zoo, Crosser Sports Complex, and the Columbian Park Carousel.

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