

ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH CONSERVATION ACTION AND STORYTELLING IN A MODULAR EXHIBIT SPACE AT HENRY VILAS ZOO

The Henry Vilas Zoo has secured a Conservation Education grant for a 2.5 year project in the amount of \$300,000 from Woodland Park Zoo as part of the Advancing Empathy Grant Program. The funds from this grant will be used to support the development and implementation of empathy-driven conservation initiatives at the Henry Vilas Zoo. This includes hiring a full-time bi-lingual Education Coordinator to lead community engagement efforts, organizing hands-on conservation activities, and developing interactive exhibit displays that showcase real-world conservation impacts. Funding will also cover the creation of a replicable toolkit for other zoos and aquariums, storytelling training for staff and volunteers, and partnerships with local artists and community groups to ensure inclusive representation. These efforts will help deepen visitor connections to wildlife, inspire conservation action, and create a sustainable model for empathy-based education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby accept the grant in the amount of \$300,000 from Woodland Park Zoo,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board does hereby support and authorize the creation of a 1.0 FTE Education Coordinator - Bilingual project position (P-9) effective July 1, 2025.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the revenue increase be credited to the ZOO (New Line) Storytelling Grant Revenue account and transferred from this account to the following expenditure accounts. All unexpended funds and unrecognized revenues from these accounts shall be carried forward through the 2027 budget period:

ZOO	(New Line)	Storytelling Grant Expense	\$54,700
ZOO	10009	Salaries and Wages	\$38,200
ZOO	10099	Retirement Fund	\$2,700
ZOO	10108	Social Security	\$2,900
ZOO	10117	Health	\$15,100
ZOO	10153	Dental	\$900
ZOO	10171	Disability	\$100
ZOO	10250	Salary Savings	\$800