



For Immediate Release

THE FUTURE IS GREEN AT ZOO ATLANTA

Scaly Slimy Spectacular is the world's first LEED Gold-certified reptile and amphibian exhibit, and a new \$1 million gift will support LEED enhancements for the Zoo's "Grand New View"

ATLANTA – November 3, 2015 – The Zoo Atlanta of the future will be one in which state-of-the-art animal habitats meet or exceed new standards of environmental responsibility and sustainability, and the future is already here. Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience has become the world's first LEED Gold-certified reptile and amphibian exhibit, and a \$1 million gift from The Kendeda Fund will ensure that the Zoo's next groundbreaking effort, the revitalization of the historic Cyclorama building and its adjacent property, will facilitate LEED renovations for facilities set to open in 2019.

The gift from The Kendeda Fund is the fourth \$1 million gift announced by Zoo Atlanta for "A Grand New View: Elephants, Events and Expansion," and will specifically support environmental enhancements for the project. The campaign launched with a \$20 million matching grant from The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation in late 2014. This public show of support was followed by \$1 million from Delta Air Lines through the Delta Air Lines Foundation, announced in February 2015; \$1 million from longtime Zoo supporters David and Cecelia Ratcliffe, announced in May; and \$1 million from the Georgia Power Foundation, announced in August.

"Building on the success of Scaly Slimy Spectacular, it is our goal now and for the future to ensure that our new facilities are not only world-class, but are also tangible examples of our mission of conservation. LEED certification demonstrates that commitment to the world," said Raymond B. King, President and CEO. "Scaly Slimy Spectacular has set the stage for what guests can expect from the new Zoo, and the 'new normal' is going to be very exciting for Atlanta. We're very grateful to The Kendeda Fund for this show of support for the 'Grand New View' campaign and for all they do to promote environmental sustainability in the community."

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is a demonstration of leadership in commitment to environmental sustainability. Factors include energy-efficient design and construction practices that minimize the environmental impact of an organization or business's footprint. Zoo Atlanta partnered with Winter Johnson Group, A Joint Venture, the builders of Scaly Slimy Spectacular, on redirecting more than 125 tons of construction waste toward recycling while also pursuing locally-sourced cement, carpet and other construction materials.

The LEED Gold certification is the latest in a series of honors for Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience. Earlier this year, the complex earned an award from the Construction Management Association of America for "Top Project in Commercial Construction under \$30 Million" and an Engineering News-Record (ENR) Southeast Best Project Award for Best Project in the Cultural/Worship category.

Scaly Slimy Spectacular features 60,000 gallons of water and more than 9,700 square feet of hand-crafted rockwork designed to simulate some of the planet's most iconic wild places. The complex is home to around 100 animals representing over 70 species from around the world. Highlights include a 30-foot naturalistic waterfall feeding into a large American alligator habitat where guests can enjoy close views of four of the native reptiles.

Stay tuned for updates on "A Grand New View: Elephants, Events and Expansion."

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About Zoo Atlanta

Viewed as one of the finest zoological institutions in the U.S. and a proud accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta has a mission to inspire value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family experiences. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with nearly 1,400 animals from around the world. The Zoo's newest destination, Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience, featuring 60 species in a 111,000 square-foot complex, opened in spring 2015. Zoo collection highlights include Mei Lun and Mei Huan, the only giant panda twins in the U.S.; North America's largest zoological collection of great apes; and a global center of excellence for the care and study of reptiles and amphibians. Up-close-and-personal animal experiences include behind-the-scenes Wild Encounters with African elephants, giant pandas, lemurs and Aldabra giant tortoises. Zoo Atlanta is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, visit zooatlanta.org or call 404.624.WILD.

About The Kendeda Fund

The Kendeda Fund is a private grant making foundation that invests in transformative leaders and ideas, empowering communities across the U.S. and around the globe to enhance equity, vibrancy, resourcefulness and resilience. The Kendeda Fund helps underrepresented but trusted voices build social and community capital by supporting experienced, and emerging, leaders who have the vision to see problems differently and the courage to challenge conventional thinking. Learn more at www.kendedafund.org.

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