



LIVING *in a* WILDLIFE

**CORRIDOR**



PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY



# Press RELEASE

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

--- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ---

## Art Meets Wildlife in Immersive, Interactive Exhibit at Descanso Gardens

ARROYOS & FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY PARTNERS WITH CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SHOWCASE WILDLIFE THIS SUMMER

La Cañada Flintridge, CA - On June 3rd, 2023, doors at the Historic Boddy House at Descanso Gardens open on LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, an immersive and interactive exhibit fusing art and nature presented by Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC). Featuring up-close breathtaking photography of local wildlife, striking life-size sculpture, and original paintings, prints, and drawings, visitors will be captivated by the beauty and brilliance of Los Angeles wildlife. Displays in this impressive exhibition include artwork and traditional knowledge shared by Tongva Culture Bearers, the latest scientific and research expertise from conservationists, and insights into the specific challenges and opportunities around conservation in the greater Los Angeles area.

As visitors make their way through the exhibit, they'll learn about local initiatives to conserve land and help wildlife, and will walk away with concrete actions and steps they can take to protect and preserve the natural world surrounding us.

To present LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy is partnering with leading conservation and environmental organizations both regionally and nationally, including the National Park Service, the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Occidental College, the Theodore Payne Foundation, Kidspace Children's Museum, and the Pasadena Audubon Society.

*continued on next page*

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY

# Press RELEASE

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

“Los Angeles is one of the most biodiverse urban areas in the world, and its natural beauty is part of why so many people choose to live here,” said John Howell, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy’s CEO. “We’re honored to be working alongside Descanso Gardens and other important environmental organizations to give a new and different window into the world of wildlife - not only mammals but also bats, birds, bees, butterflies, and reptiles - and the plant life they depend on. It’s our hope that visitors will gain greater insights into the natural world we live in and be inspired to join the wave of people taking action to protect it.”

One of the exhibiting artists, painter and former Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde said, “It’s an honor to have my artwork included in this remarkable exhibit. I’ve been involved with Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy for many years now, and I believe that local conservation is crucial to our ongoing efforts to protect wildlife and address climate change.”

The exhibit explores how wildlife corridors — paths of movement that wildlife use to navigate through and among islands of native habitat — function in a dense urban environment like the greater Los Angeles area. That movement is an essential key to their survival; the exhibit remembers and explores the heartbreaking case of P-22, LA’s so-called celebrity mountain lion who died last December, as an example of what happens when wildlife corridors are not available. Through informational panels, interactive activities, a summer-long educational series, and multi-sensory installations, LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR encourages visitors to reflect on what it means to share space alongside an immense variety of wild neighbors: plants, animals, birds, and pollinators alike.

LIVING IN A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR runs from June 3rd through October 1st. Tickets can be purchased onsite at Descanso Gardens, or online at [descansogardens.org](https://descansogardens.org) (admission is required for all visitors, but is free to members of Descanso Gardens). You can learn more about AFC’s work at [arroyosfoothills.org](https://arroyosfoothills.org).

#####

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY

# About the EXHIBIT

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Descanso Gardens is part of a

## Wildlife Corridor

Wildlife corridors are interconnecting pathways used by wildlife to safely move between larger islands of natural habitat in search of mates, food, and water.

Plants and animals depend on our wildlife corridors to keep their habitats biodiverse—without these corridors, their natural systems become isolated and ultimately fail.

For mountain lions, bobcats, deer, birds, and countless other species, our wildlife corridors are also life-savers, providing escape routes from fire, predators, and human activity.

As these animals move back and forth along our corridors, something quite magical happens—their paws, fur, and digestive systems disperse native seeds, giving birth to a great plant migration.

### CORRIDOR CHARACTERS

In this exhibit, you'll meet some of the animal "regulars" spotted around our wildlife corridor, and the humans working to help them and their habitat.

### FIND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!



30,000

*projected  
visitors*

10

*wildlife  
photographers*

25

*local  
habitat  
researchers*

7

*wildlife  
camera  
trappers*

10

*partners &  
collaborators*

# *About the* **EXHIBIT**

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

**PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT**

## *Art meets nature meets individual action in this interactive exhibit*

Through the lens of talented wildlife photographers and camera trappers, via the paint brushes and canvases of local artists, and through the stories and wisdom of the Tongva people who have stewarded this land for millennia, visitors will see our wild surroundings from an entirely new perspective.

This exhibit highlights Descanso Gardens' place in the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor, a series of passageways Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy is working to establish for wildlife to travel between the San Gabriel Mountains and the isolated open space of the San Rafael Hills, Verdugo Mountains and Griffith Park.

Created in partnership with Descanso Gardens, FormLA, Kidspace Children's Museum, the National Park Service, National Wildlife Federation, Natural History Museum, Pasadena Audubon Society, and Theodore Payne Foundation, "Living in a Wildlife Corridor" blends art, science, and the best of community conservation efforts.

We each play a part in supporting the health of our planet. We all must learn how to think global, but act local to make a positive impact on our changing climate. Conservation works best when we work together: exhibit visitors will walk away with real, immediate actions to make a difference in their backyards and neighborhoods.

*A note on experience: this exhibit is designed to be interactive. Visitors will find QR codes throughout the exhibit that they can scan with their phones to learn more about exhibitors and artists, to join initiatives, and to get involved in local urban conservation work.*

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY



# *Featured* CONTRIBUTORS

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Throughout the exhibition visitors will encounter large scale installations, stunning wildlife photography, original artwork, and interactive and educational displays made by renowned artists, photographers, educators, designers, and sculptors, including but not limited to:

**Weshoyot Alvitre**

*Tongva artist*

**Denis Callet**

*wildlife photographer*

**Roy Dunn**

*wildlife photographer*

**Nicholas Hess**

*wildlife photographer*

**Smrithi Krishnan**

*artist*

**Christopher Lutter-Gardella**

*designer and sculptor*

**Robert Martinez**

*wildlife photographer*

**Brian Mock**

*sculptor*

**Samantha Morales Johnson**

*Tongva illustrator and  
ethnobotanist*

**Miguel Ordeñana**

*wildlife biologist and  
photographer*

**Neal Parekh**

*wildlife photographer*

**Joe Rohde**

*artist*

**Craig Torres**

*Tongva educator and artist*

**Johanna Turner**

*wildlife photographer*

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY

# *Exhibit* PARTNERS + SPONSORS

Alongside Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy as well as exhibiting artists, major contributors to the exhibit include Descanso Gardens, the National Park Service, the LA County Natural History Museum, Pasadena Audubon Society, the Theodore Payne Foundation, FormLA Landscaping, Kidspace Children's Museum, and the National Wildlife Federation.

## Descanso Gardens



*This exhibit is made possible by generous support from the Michael J. Connell Foundation, the Disney Conservation Fund, Southern California Edison, and many individual contributors and donors.*

# ALLEN'S MALES FIGHTING

ROY DUNN

*Digital photograph*

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Roy Dunn is renowned for his video and fine art “essence” portraiture of hummingbirds in flight, captured using high-speed flash techniques and equipment he developed himself. He aims to express and make visible the inherent beauty in everything he photographs. This striking photograph presents two Allen's hummingbirds in a territorial duel mid-air.



SELECTED WORKS FROM THE EXHIBIT



# MOTHER OF LIONS

ROBERT MARTINEZ

*Camera Trap Photograph*

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Robert Martinez is a wildlife enthusiast, photographer, and videographer. He's been tracking and recording the wildlife of the Angeles National Forest since 2012. In this photograph he beautifully captures a mother mountain lion and her cubs on the move while behind them, the Los Angeles skyline disappears into the sunset.



SELECTED WORKS FROM THE EXHIBIT



# SUMMER COMES AGAIN

JOE ROHDE

*Oil on canvas*

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Joe Rohde recently retired from a 40-year career with Walt Disney Imagineering, where he was pivotal in developing projects focused on natural history, culture, and the environment. The series of his paintings included in this exhibit, in which he explores the cycle of life and death in nature, portray the area devastated by the La Tuna Fire in 2017.



SELECTED WORKS FROM THE EXHIBIT



# CHAPARRAL WHIPSNAKE

NICHOLAS HESS

*Digital photograph, aluminium print*

Nicholas Hess is a young naturalist and wildlife photographer specializing in reptiles and amphibians. He attends Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he's majoring in marine science and minoring in journalism, film, and Spanish. This shockingly intimate and direct portrait of a Chaparral Whipsnake was taken in the Verdugo Mountains.



LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

**PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT**

**SELECTED WORKS FROM THE EXHIBIT**



# LION IN THE CITY

SMRITHI KRISHNAN

*Archival pigment print on paper*

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Smrithi Krishnan, born in Bangalore, India, has a love affair with all things wild and a passion for the arts. She serves on the Board of Directors of Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, where she combines her passion for art and wildlife. In this painting, inspired by an image taken on a local trail camera-trap, Krishnan portrays the wild beauty that thrives in the midst of the city.



SELECTED WORKS FROM THE EXHIBIT



# BEAR SHAKE

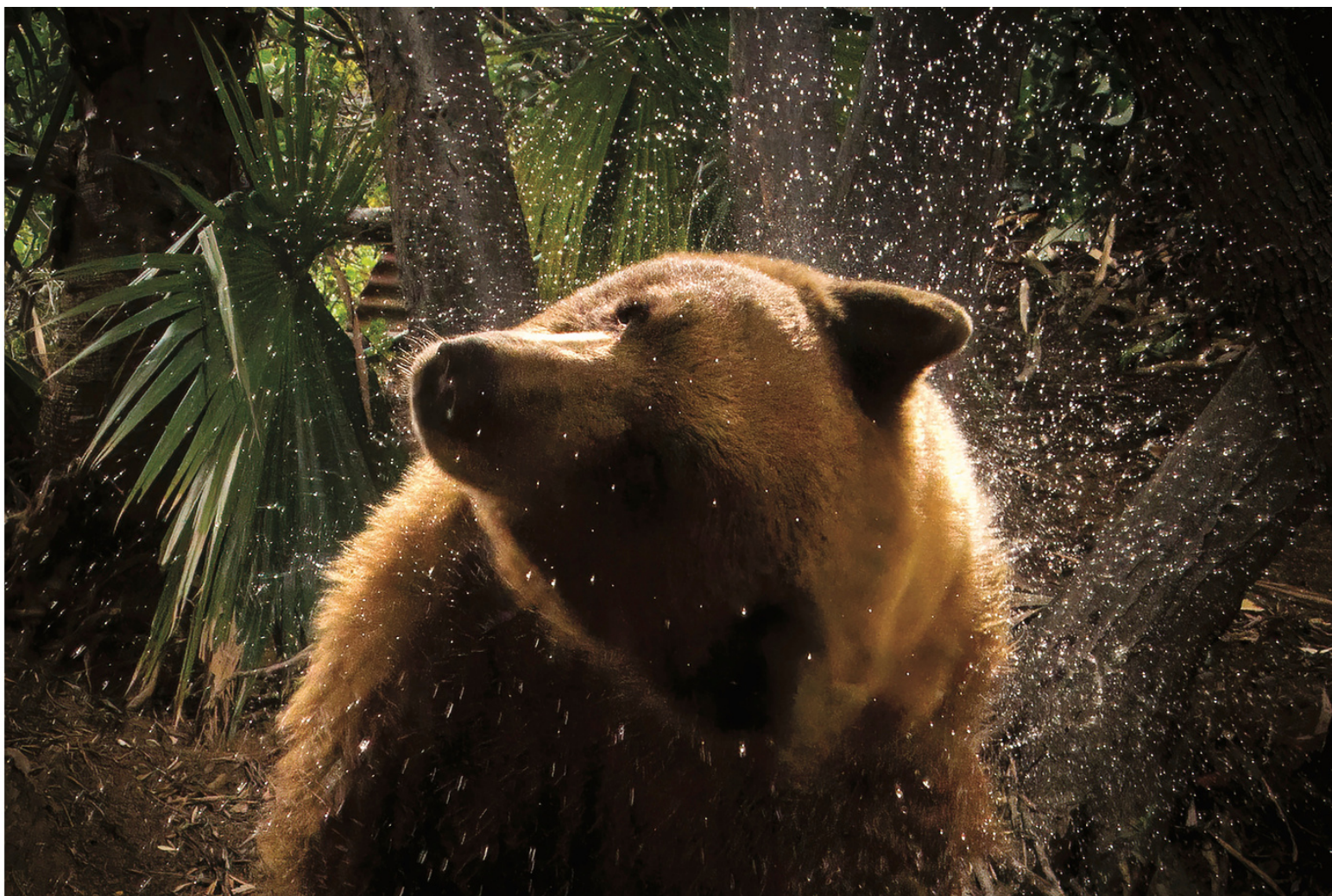
JOHANNA TURNER

*Wildlife camera trap photograph*

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT

Johanna Turner began trail camera photography in 2009 and has turned her passion into powerful advocacy and conservation. Selected as one of Disney Conservation Fund's 2019 "Conservation Heroes," her work changes the public perception of what it's like to share space with large carnivores. This photograph astonishingly captures a local bear, an animal most people don't think of when they envision Los Angeles, shaking off water on a warm day.



SELECTED WORKS FROM THE EXHIBIT

# *Schedule of* **EVENTS**

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

**PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT**

## **WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EDUCATION SERIES**

SAT. JUNE 24, 10:00AM-11:30AM | PUBLIC EVENT & PRESENTATION

**Become a Community Scientist**

SAT. JUNE 24, 4:30PM-6:00PM | PUBLIC EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

**Pollinator Power**

SAT. AUGUST 5, 10:00AM-12:00PM | PUBLIC EVENT & PRESENTATION

**Monarchs + Milkweed (including native milkweed plant giveaway)**

SAT. AUGUST 5, 4:30PM-6:00PM | PUBLIC EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

**Make Your Backyard a Native Habitat Refuge!**

SAT. SEPT. 16, 10:00AM-11:30AM | PUBLIC EVENT & PRESENTATION

**Wildlife Camera Trapping Tips and Techniques from an Expert**

SAT. SEPT. 16, 4:30PM-6:00PM | PUBLIC EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

**Wildlife Corridors in Southern California**

*All events will be held at Descanso Gardens; please check [descansogardens.org](http://descansogardens.org) for more details on how to attend.*

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY



# *Contact* **INFORMATION**

LIVING IN A  
WILDLIFE  
CORRIDOR

**PRESS +  
MEDIA KIT**

## **EXHIBIT WEBSITE**

[www.livinginawildlifecorridor.org](http://www.livinginawildlifecorridor.org)

## **TICKETING AND VISIT INFORMATION**

Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

[www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org)

## **ARROYOS & FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY PRESS CONTACT**

Maya Wali Richardson, Public Relations

tel. (310) 500-9613

[maya.walirichardson@arroyosfoothills.org](mailto:maya.walirichardson@arroyosfoothills.org)

## **FOR PRESS VISITS TO THE EXHIBIT OR TO ARRANGE SPECIAL ACCESS**

Jennifer Errico, Public Relations, Descanso Gardens

tel. (818) 949-4200

[jerrico@descansogardens.org](mailto:jerrico@descansogardens.org)

Arroyos & Foothills  
CONSERVANCY